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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-115 *13 June 1996*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Reconciliation Between Arab Leaders Expected at Summit

TA1206143796 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Jun 96 p 9

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-NAHAR Office — Jordanian political sources have said that the reconciliation meeting that was planned to be held in Cairo between King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad, under the auspices of President Husni Mubarak, has now been canceled following recent developments in the wake of the Damascus summit (attended by the leaders of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia). This summit recommended the convocation of an expanded Ara? summit in the Egyptian capital on 21-23 June.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa had discussed the idea of a meeting between King Husayn and President al-Asad during his recent visit to Damascus. The Syrian president expressed his readiness for such a meeting.

Hence, the political sources expect Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to play an active role during the upcoming summit in order to achieve reconciliation, on the sidelines, between a number of Arab leaders.

Among the most prominent of these leaders are Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad. The past years have witnessed immense tension in relations between Palestine and Syria and a rift between the two presidents which most diplomatic mediations failed to overcome.

Observers here, however, expect that this time Mubarak's efforts will succeed in view of the dramatic developments in the region, especially following the Israeli Likud Party's victory in last month's elections, and in view of the good personal relations that bind Mubarak with both 'Arafat and al-Asad.

Inter-Arab: Cairo Summit Prospects Seen in Context of Lebanon Situation

MM1206155696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 96 p 17

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "The Cairo Summit and South Lebanon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no need for another "Grapes of Wrath," since the blood has not dried yet. The Israeli elections, however, have ended, and the "grapes" have failed the "hero" who embarked on their harvest. There is no need, either, to put Binyamin Netanyahu to an early test, since he is a hard-liner, both openly and in secret, because, as he has not taken up his post yet, any reaction to Hizballah's operation would be added to the credit of Shim'on Peres, who has practically reached the end of his political career. There is no need, either, for adventures ahead and on the eve of the Arab summit, since it is not being held for the purpose of taking a tougher line and since its theme, outlined in the Damascus summit statement, is to warn Israel and its forthcoming Likud government against "backtracking" on the peace measures.... Finally, there is no need to try to draw the Cairo summit into adopting positions which seem to have achieved a consensus, as this might change its atmosphere and all calculations.

In any case, Hizballah's operation will have consequences, and as usual, Lebanon is likely to suffer from them. For Lebanon, which has not finished counting its losses in the recent war, this would mean more devastation and more civilian casualties. Wars are waged and ended, and nothing changes, because the reality imposed by the Israeli occupation in south Lebanon has imposed its own game and rules. It is not wrong for any faction, be it Hizballah or any other, to maintain the resistance as long as there is an occupation. The five Israeli soldiers who were killed in the recent operations are part of the price that Israel must pay for an occupation which it still maintains. The Hizballah fighter who was killed in the operation is also the price that the resistance must pay. The greater price is the price that the civilians are paying. The Qana massacre is still a reminder, and one of the most important clauses and objectives of the "April understanding" is to protect civilians.

Israel is responsible for imposing this situation of occupation and resistance to the occupation as a fait accompli which is likely to persist as long as there is an occupation and as long as the peace is delayed and postponed. Hence, the "April understanding" is short-sighted and incapable of achieving a cease-fire, because at the time the priority of U.S. negotiator Warren Christopher was to get his candidate Peres out of an impasse. Moreover, the Washington talks (resulting from the "April understanding") to set up the monitoring committee have been bogged down in details and suspended until after the Israeli elections, on the premise that the elections result would reflect on the implementation of the "understanding" and on its conversion into a mechanism for action. In the past, operations which were carried out inside the security belt and which coincided with the Washington talks were not considered a violation of the "understanding." However, it seems that Israeli reactions to any resistance operation always rely on hitting civilians in their homes.

There is therefore a situation which is always bound to cause a heightening in tension. More importantly,

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[Weiss] The Nabulus meeting is being delayed until the problem is solved, and the Gaza delegates decide to travel to the West Bank. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: CIA, FBI Reportedly Providing Training to Security Agents

JN1306102696 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 May 96 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. security sources revealed that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, have been providing training to PLO security staff members in various parts of the United States for the last two years.

The sources added that the training aims to improve the performance of the Palestinian security agencies in the fields of intelligence gathering and analysis and providing protection for important figures, such as Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, his top aides, and foreign visitors.

The sources said that, for more than two years, the two U.S. security agencies have received Palestinian security teams from the various Palestinian security agencies, which the Palestinian president set up after his arrival in Gaza two years ago. Each team consists of 15 to 20 members.

The sources also revealed that the training of the Palestinian security agents in the United States is part of an understanding reached by U.S. and PLO officials in Tunis in 1993 shortly after the Declaration of Principles agreement between the PLO and Israel was signed. The sources revealed that security cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and the United States was intensified after the suicide bombings that were carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad organizations in Israel three months ago. The cooperation was further enhanced in a meeting between CIA Director John Deutch, his assistant for Middle East affairs, and Palestinian President 'Arafat shortly after the Sharm al-Shaykh summit. 'Arafat asked Deutch to provide CIA training and technology to Palestinian security officials to help them fight the terrorist operations. The CIA has indeed started to provide this support.

Furthermore, the sources say that CIA and FBI officials in Israel hold regular, secret meetings with Palestinian security officials.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Security Chiefs Warn of Halt in Fight Against Hamas

TA1306050596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] security apparatuses have informed Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu that they will stop fighting against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] unless Netanyahu changes his policy toward the Palestinians within a few weeks. Among other issues, the Palestinians are demanding an easing of the closure on the territories.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in their message to the prime minister-elect, the heads of the Palestinian security apparatuses asserted that they were losing public support and that this was hampering their ability to act against Hamas. The Palestinian leadership is worried and disappointed by the talks held between Netanyahu's political adviser Dore Gold and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. Palestinian sources said that these talks indicate a disparaging attitude and lack of openness toward the Palestinians.

Israeli security sources said that since the elections, several Palestinian leaders, including Abu-Mazin, Hasan 'Asfur, Nabil Sha'th, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, have threatened to resume the intifadah and the violence. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that these threats were made in the Palestinian media. The sources affirmed that such extreme statements were spoiling the atmosphere in the territories and helping prepare Palestinian public opinion for a new wave of anti-Israeli violence.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Rujub Denies Making Threats To Stop Fighting Hamas

TA1306112396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian preventive security services in the West Bank, has denied reports that the heads of the Palestinian security apparatuses have threatened Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu that they will stop fighting against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Al-Rujub told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinian security services are not involved in political issues. Al-Rujub added that in accordance with Yasir 'Arafat's instructions, the Palestinians are pursuing the same policies as before the Israeli elections. They are committed to the peace process and are taking steps against anyone trying to sabotage it through violence.

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Palestinian Affairs: Negotiator on Arab Summit, Likud Victory, Strategy

TA1206174196 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 11 Jun 96 p 3

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, director general of the Palestinian negotiations department, by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arna'ut] What is your comment on the Arab states' decision to convene an expanded summit in Cairo?

['Asfur] Holding a summit at this time and with such speed is tantamount to a political message, which might be the most important one in recent years in the Arab arena. This is a message of unity and a sense of general responsibility for pan-Arab interests, in addition to being a message of peace.

This is the first summit that will be held with the cooperation and coordination of Arab states for the sake of preserving peace in light of the perils that have appeared following the Israeli right wing's taking over the Israeli prime minister's post. Moreover, it is the first summit that will seek to streamline regional relations among the Arab states.

This summit is a development of the concept of the second Fes summit, which at the time referred to a just peace. The summit will also provide a new concept of the Arab political stance.

I believe that this summit is important for Israeli society, because it will affirm the development of the peace process in the region in line with the interests of everyone, devoid of domination and the spirit of occupation.

[Arna'ut] But there are U.S. attempts to empty this summit of content?

['Asfur] It is difficult for anyone to downplay the summit's importance, unless they wish to ignore the summit's political content. Thus, they will be ignoring the peace process. I do not believe that anyone is interested in this, unless they favor a climate of confrontation and hatred.

I do not believe that it is in the interest of the U.S. Administration to undermine this summit, especially as President Clinton has announced his support for the peace process and linked his support for Israel to the continuation of the peace process. This continuation is a regional and international interest. The U.S. Administration is interested in the continuation of this process and, therefore, it seeks stability in the region.

[Arna'ut] The U.S. elections are slated for November. It is difficult for Clinton to pressure Netanyahu until after the U.S. elections.

['Asfur] The elections might freeze the dynamism of the United States, but Washington's interest is in the continuation of the peace process.

We do not pin great hopes on U.S. pressure, but we have to endeavor so that this Arab summit adopts all its dimensions in the service of the peace process.

[Arna'ut] But certain voices are saying that this summit is a failure even before it convenes because of the clearly apparent Arab differences.

['Asfur] The statements that followed the Damascus and al-'Aqabah summits have a clear political meaning. They provide early elements of success to the current preparations for the summit.

A great deal of ambiguity has pervaded inter-Arab relations, and perhaps this ambiguity will end at the upcoming summit.

[Arna'ut] Can one say that the Palestinian fear which emerged after the Israeli elections has now disappeared following the decision to convene the summit?

['Asfur] There is no fear, but political apprehension regarding the peace process. This is natural and logical. It is not a question of fearing for the Palestinians, but concern for the entire peace process, especially in light of the programs announced by the Israeli religious parties which are expected to join the Likud government coalition. These programs deviate from the framework familiar to the region over the last four years.

There is Palestinian and Arab concern for the peace process, especially in light of what the other side is proposing. These are disturbing proposals. Therefore, what has happened is that now there is a unity of Palestinian and Arab concern. In other words, this is a general concern, not only a Palestinian concern.

[Arna'ut] Do you expect the Arab countries to halt normalization of relations with Israel until an agreement is reached with the Palestinians?

['Asfur] I believe that this is a general demand, since any Arab movement toward Israel depends on Israel's movement toward peace. In other words, Israel should adhere to the signed agreements and its commitment must be serious.

[Arna'ut] The Palestinian leadership met recently to discuss the negotiations' strategy. What was decided at the meeting?

['Asfur] We have prepared a detailed study and a comprehensive perception of the final talks. Internal preparations for these talks are under way.

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Algeria

Algeria: Car Bomb Kills 2 in Boudouaou

LD1206210196 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 2035 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The explosion of a booby-trapped car near Boudouaou, 30 km east of Algiers, killed at least two people and injured 15 others today. We have learned the above news from Boudouaou inhabitants. No other details could be obtained in the evening.

Algeria: Security Forces Kill 22 Suspected Islamists in Algiers

LD1206144096 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, 22 suspected Islamists have been killed by the security forces in Algiers over the last two days, according to reports today in the privately-owned daily newspapers, EL WATAN and LIBERTE. The head of Bab-el-Oued [suburb of Algiers], known as the emir, is reported to be among the victims.

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Interviewed on Cairo Summit

NC1206193496 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 June 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa emphasized that the Arab summit that will be held in Cairo next week will be positive. In an interview with MBC today, he pointed out that Arab leaders expect the same positive attitude from the new leadership in Israel. He warned against the possibility of returning to the era of axes and challenges if Israel demonstrates intransigence. Our correspondent in Cairo Tariq al-Shami held the interview with Musa. He asked him about topics proposed at the summit.

[Begin recording] [Musa] Arab coordination and closing Arab ranks is in the cards. When Arab leaders meet they are bound to discuss closing their ranks, because the Arab position is weak in view of prevailing divisions, differences in explaining issues, and other reasons. Arab coordination is required. Another issue that will be discussed is the peace process. The discussions and agenda of the summit revolve around these two issues.

[Al-Shami] Do you think that putting an end to the normalization of tie with Israel is a necessary measure to confront the stances of the new government in Israel led by Netanyahu?

[Musa] Look, let us be positive. The matter does not require threats nor anticipation of things. The summit will be held and I want to stress here that it will be positive. A positive attitude is required for backing and advancing the peace process. However, this positive attitude must not be limited only to one party only, but must be shown by both parties. Let us look forward to a successful and positive summit, to back the peace process and emphasize the principles on which it is founded—such as land-for-peace, withdrawal, right in return for right, obligation in return for obligation, security for everyone, and the future shape of the region, a future of cooperation and development within the framework of peace, and not returning to alliances and challenges. This is the question proposed at the summit.

[Al-Shami] In your view, what are the cards that the Arab countries have to force the new Israeli Government, led by Netanyahu, to change its stance on the peace process in general?

[Musa] Look, this region is predominantly Arab. Despite the weak coordination among the Arabs, Arabs will constitute power when they adopt a unified stand. We want the Arabs to unite to become a positive power to support and promote peace, but a fair and balanced peace, not any peace at any price. [end recording]

Egypt: Mubarak Views Upcoming Arab Summit

MS1206121296 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 12 Jun 96 p 4

[Report on interview with Egyptian President Mubarak by James Whittington; place and date not given: "Mubarak Returns to Arab Centre Stage"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As Egypt prepares to hold next week the first full-scale Arab summit since 1990, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is again back at the heart of regional Arab politics.

It took the shock election of the Likud party in Israel and subsequent fears for the Middle East peace process to bring together 18 Arab leaders who for years have been reluctant to meet under the same roof.

"Whether we like it or not we are always at the centre of things," said Mr Mubarak in an interview. "We are the biggest country in this part of the world (with a population of 60 million) and our history, nature and culture have always given us a central role."

Over his 15 years in office, the 68-year-old former air force commander's patience and circumspection have often proved better suited to the development of Egypt's foreign affairs than to domestic policy.

When he succeeded President Anwar Sadat, assassinated by Islamist militants during an army parade in 1981, Egypt's regional place was the dog house. Stigmatized

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at being the first Arab state to sign up to peace with Israel, in the form of the 1979 Camp David accords, Mr Mubarak spent his first years in office focusing on re- building the country's profile and influence.

This was capped, a decade later, by his recruitment of Arab allies to help the U.S.-led coalition force Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991. In return, Egypt not only re-established its role as the leader of the Arab world but received a shot in the arm of its neglected economy with a reduction of its foreign debt from $51bn in 1991 to $36bn now.

After the Gulf war, Egypt played a significant role in pushing forward the Middle East peace process which led to two more Arab/Israeli peace agreements, first with the Palestinians, then Jordan.

More recently, Egypt has watched its regional role diminish as the peace process has unfolded. With less demand for a regional broker between the Arabs and Israelis, the skilled mandarins of the foreign office in Cairo had even begun to carve themselves a role in domestic economic policy, seeking something useful to do.

Now, as they scurry to make arrangements for the summit, some of the same officials are working on the assumption that Egypt can benefit from Mr Benjamin Netanyahu's rise to power in Israel if it can reestablish itself as the only Arab country that a Likud-led government will feel comfortable talking to.

Last week, acting as the only common denominator to a series of mini-summits last week, he first met Mr Hafiz al-Asad, his Syrian counterpart, in Cairo, then King Husayn of Jordan and the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, in Aqaba. Then he joined Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah in meeting Mr al-Asad again in Damascus.

His message after each summit was the same as he expressed before Mr Netanyahu was elected as Israel's prime minister: "I don't want to be rushed to give my impression before we wait and see what Netanyahu's policies are... If he starts to put obstacles then certainly there will be a big problem," he said adding: "Since we have been able to work with (Likud's previous prime ministers such as (Menachem) Begin and (Yitzhaq) Sham'ir, I see no reason why we can't work with Netanyahu."

A brief look at Mr Netanyahu's election promises might, at first, make such openmindedness seem like wishful thing.

the next prime minister of Israel has firmly ruled out a Palestinian state, Jerusalem will always remain the eternal capital of Israel, the Golan Heights will not be returned to the Syrians, and money will be poured into new settlements for Israelis in the West Bank.

But Mr Mubarak says if he has learned one thing the past 15 years, it is: "It's a crazy world and you never know what's going to happen next."

Egypt: Papers See Summit Boosting Peace Process

NC1306103096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Today's Cairo papers say the objective of the Arab summit in Cairo on 21 June is to discuss ways to continue the peace process based on justice, equality, and the restoral of rights in line with the Arab commitment to peace with Israel.

Under the headline "Peace Is the Objective of the Arab Summit," the newspaper AL-AHRAM says in its editorial that while the objectives of the comprehensive Arab summit in Cairo concentrate on boosting the peace process and guaranteeing its continuation after all the big steps taken along the road to a comprehensive and just peace, some Israeli extremists insist that the summit will express Arab hatred for Israel and show that the Arabs still feel hostility toward it.

The paper points out that extremist Rafa'el Eytan has tried to exercise his belligerence; he reminded the Arabs of past wars with them—as if he were beating the drums of war. He said: We are not afraid of anyone and the Arabs should not try to intimidate us.

AL-AHRAM adds: Perhaps the world has realized what the Likud and other extremist and rightist parties allied with it have in mind. All these parties based their electioneering propaganda on destroying the peace process completely and radically. Their public and hostile statements continued even after they triumphed in the elections and in recent days. This indicates that hostility will be the official policy of the new Israeli Government.

The paper clarifies that despite all of this President Mubarak repeated his statements confirming the need to be patient and not prejudge the Likud government before it is formed and before it officially presents its policies. Egypt is doing so in an attempt not to block the way before the Israeli Government, so that it can proceed along the road to peace. Egypt is also providing this government with the opportunity to back down on earlier statements that could drag the region into a very vague and uncertain future.

The paper concludes: We confirm here that the peace process must continue and that when the Arab leaders

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hold their meeting in Cairo they will primarily discuss ways to continue the peace process.

Mursi 'Atallah, chief editor of AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, in an article for the morning edition of AL-AHRAM headlined "The Cairo Summit: Necessities and Duties," says: It is wrong for anyone, particularly in Israel, to imagine that any crisis facing the peace process is purely an Arab crisis. It is a crisis for everyone, primarily Israel and its extremist hawks.

In this regard the writer cites statements by Halya Golan [name as received], spokeswoman for the Peace Now movement, after Netanyahu won the elections. She said: If Netanyahu's ideas are implemented, then the dreams of the most fanatic Arabs will also come true along with them. Demonstrations will start up again in the West Bank and will perhaps lead to an intifadah that will not be fought with stones alone this time round. On our northern border the promised acts of revenge—based on counsel from Sharon—will turn Hizballah from a mere party into a whole nation. When this happens, will any Arab leader have the courage to deal with Netanyahu or trust him? They will meet again with revenge motives—motives that have almost been forgotten.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says in its editorial headlined "Egypt Fights Closing Doors, Not the Other Way Round," that the current tune in Washington and Tel Aviv revolves round the saying that things should not be judged in haste and that the government in Israel has not been formed yet. Egypt has responded to this—despite a book's title giving away its content. The Likud document and the four no's Netanyahu reiterated confirm the bad intentions of the future government.

The paper adds: Proceeding from this, it should also be the right of the Arabs to demand that Tel Aviv and Washington not judge the Arab summit too quickly and should wait until after the Arab leaders meet and issue their statement. Or is it that there are things that are lawful for Israel but prohibited to the Arabs?

The paper says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements calling on the Arabs not to take any stance that could close the doors before Netanyahu's government regarding the peace process was an unjustified jumping of the gun regarding various issues and stances, particularly since the statements indicate that the official Egyptian stance regarding this summit has been ignored.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR notes that Egypt clearly announced that the comprehensive Arab summit in Cairo 21-23 June aims to make positive decisions in line with the campaign to protect peace. The quick and comprehensive Arab response to convening such a summit was fully welcomed by the Arab public, which yearns for the restoral of Arab solidarity and coordination after years of fragmentation and disputes from which none but the enemies of the Arab nation have benefited.

Mahfuz al-Ansari, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH, writes in his weekly column: The summit will not close any doors before Netanyahu and his government, as Warren Christopher believes. It will open the doors of meetings before them. It calls on Netanyahu to continue what has been agreed upon with U.S. blessing and initiatives. The current and past U.S. Presidents were the "godfathers" of these agreements and the witnesses who signed them.

The writer adds: The Arab summit confirms the Arab commitment to peace with Israel, the peace of justice, equality, and the return of rights. The summit will not debate what has already taken place nor will it break any promises. It will not renege on what has been agreed upon. It will not deviate from the Madrid agreement or from its principles, as Netanyahu alleges.

The writer says it is the duty of the United States — a big and important duty — to concentrate on Tel Aviv and Netanyahu more than on the Arabs and their summit to defend the assets that Washington has already achieved.

Al-Ansari says the moral is not, as Christopher says, to control Arab action by contacting all the Arab capitals before the leaders travel to Cairo. The moral lies in curbing, controlling, and holding back the Israeli horse before it breaks loose and tramples everything.

The writer concludes: Perhaps the U.S. secretary of state will remember that President Mubarak has opened all the doors and will be travelling to Washington at the end of next month for the sake of peace, no other reason.

Egypt: Commentary Views Israeli Propaganda Against Arab Summit

NC1206132996 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "An Arab Summit in Cairo for Peace and Stability for the Peoples of the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Until the Arab summit meets in Cairo the Israeli propaganda machine and the pro-Israeli Zionist lobbies in the United States and Europe are expected to be busy propagating the notion that this summit is against Israel's and the major powers' vital interests in the Middle East, of which Israel regards itself protector and guarantor.

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History shows that Israel played the same tune in June 1967 when it propagated such lies and convinced the world that its more than 100 million Arab neighbors rejected its presence. It also claimed that it wanted no more than peaceful coexistence with the peoples of the region. This propaganda, planned and carried out by the Israelis, convinced the international community, which, at the time, was ready to accept any Israeli notion. It was encouraged in this by a false or naive conceit on the part of the Arabs. Naturally, the outcome was the situation that prevailed until October 1973, when the armed forces corrected many wrong assumptions about Egypt and Arabism.

The Israeli propaganda against the summit in Cairo is very similar to the propaganda Israel resorted to in the sixties despite the Cairo Arab summit's goals having been drawn up and made public and containing nothing ambiguous. Preparations for the summit began several months ago, as confirmed by the bilateral and tripartite meetings that President Mubarak held with Arab leaders to coordinate Arab positions in preparation for resuming the negotiating process with Israel and to remove the obstacles and barriers among the Arab countries that are impeding Arab cooperation in various political, economic, and cultural spheres, a cooperation that is free of any agreements or axes targeting any of the countries of the region.

The peace process cosponsors have been informed of the issues to be discussed at the Arab summit, since these issues concern what was agreed on in the Madrid peace conference and the agreements concluded in the region, which are not inconsistent with and do not conflict with any agreements that aim to reach a just and comprehensive peace established on the principles approved by the international community and expressed in the principle of land in return for peace.

The Arab desire to reach a comprehensive peace that restores to the region the stability desired by its peoples has exceeded all expectations. All the Arab leaders have stressed these facts to the U.S. Administration and even proved them when they exercised a large measure of self-restraint in dealing with the Israeli aggression against fraternal Lebanon. The U.S. Administration described this Arab stance as a real move toward peace.

We do not stray far from the truth when we say that the Israeli people's division over its desire for and belief in peace with the Arabs, which was manifested by the elections, has caused anxiety, not only among Arab circles, but also in the U.S. Administration, which did not conceal its feelings of anxiety from these results while expressing its backing and support for the sincere efforts made by the Arab leaders who called for the Arab summit in Cairo.

The Israeli propaganda machine will be unable to exploit the situation in its favor this time and claim again that it wants to live in peace among its Arab neighbors. The Israeli election result showed the opposite.

The Cairo summit will call on the international community to uphold the Madrid peace conference resolutions, which recognized the principle of land in return for peace.

Egypt: Journalists Syndicate Releases Statement on Demands

NC1206135396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—The Pressmen Syndicate Council has emphasized that the efforts of pressmen to foil press law No. 93 and have legislation passed abolishing its effects and ensuring guarantees for press freedom and the rights of the pressmen must not stop under any circumstances. In a statement read by Press Syndicate chairman Ibrahim Nafi' before the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly today, the Press Syndicate Council called for the use of all legitimate means to assist the pressmen in attaining this goal, including welcoming any dialogue or serious negotiations to this end. The Pressmen Council stressed the pressmen's right to exercise all forms of peaceful and legal protests and to notify all those concerned with their views. The Council also decided to refrain from submitting the press code of ethics that the Pressmen Syndicate prepared for voting on in the General Assembly, until a law acceptable to the pressmen is issued. The council stressed its preparedness to receive any proposal from the General Assembly or the Pressmen Syndicate chairman that will achieve the goals of the Assembly and the interests of the pressmen, proposals that can be implemented at any time.

Libya

Libya: Iraq's al-Sahhaf Arrives With Message for al-Qadhdhafi

JN1206201096 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1849 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 12 Jun (INA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Tripoli today on an official three-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told the INA correspondent in Tripoli that he has an oral message from President

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Saddam Husayn to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Sahhaf added that he will discuss with Jamahiriyah officials the ways to enhance and promote fraternal bilateral ties in all areas within the context of pan-Arab action. During the visit, he will also hold consultations and coordinate stands with Jamahiriyah officials, he maintained.

Al-Sahhaf was welcomed upon arrival by Jum'ah al-Mahdi al-Fazzani, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

Sudan

Sudan: Opposition Asks President al-Bashir To 'Step Down'

EA1206212396 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1729 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable listeners. Leaderships [as heard] of the National Democratic Alliance, in Khartoum, have submitted an elaborate memorandum to the (?president) of the [National] Islamic Front.

The leadership of the National Democratic Alliance, in Khartoum, submitted an elaborate memorandum to Brigadier 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir at 0800 GMT on Monday, 10 June, calling for the return of democracy and peace under the guidance of the Charter of the National Democratic Alliance and Asmara conference. It called on Brig. al-Bashir and the Islamic Front authorities to step down immediately and make room for our people to choose their transitional national government. Otherwise guidance will be sought elsewhere.

The memorandum was signed by al-Ustadh Salah 'Abd-al-Salam al-Khalifah on behalf of the Ummah party; al-Hajj Mudawwi Muhammad Ahmad for the Democratic Unionist Party; al-Ustadh Faruq 'Ali Zakariyya for the Sudanese communist party; al-Ustadh Adam Farajallah Atiyyah for the Sudanese national party; Dr. (Ezakiel Kodi) on behalf the Charter of the Alliance of Southern Parties: [name indistinct] (Abel Alier), former magistrate and lawyer; al- Ustadhah Farah (Nuedallah) for the National Women's Alliance; al-Ustadh 'Abd-al-Karim Ba Bikr for the Sudanese journalists' union; al-Ustadh Muhammad al-Hasan Nurayn on behalf of the supreme council of trade unions and secretary general; al-Ustadh Muhammad al-Hafiz Mahmud on behalf of Sudanese lawyers union. Glory to the National Democratic Alliance and glory to the people of Sudan.

Sudan: Al-Bashir Appoints Ministers to Defense, Foreign Ministries

EA1106201796 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has issued a Republican decree appointing retired Lt. Gen. Mansur 'Abd-al-Rahim and Major Gen. Muhammad al-Radi Nasr al-Din ministers of state at the Defense Ministry. His Excellency also issued a Republican decree appointing Air Force Maj. Gen. al-Fatih Muhammad Ahmad Urwah ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Sudan: SAF Chief Interviewed on National, Other Issues

JN1206121296 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jun 96 pp 34-36

[Interview with Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, SAF chief, by unidentified correspondent in Asmara; date not given—first three paragraphs are AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The SAF [Sudanese Allied Forces] have shown themselves to be unique in more ways than one and have become a political force to be reckoned with in Sudan. More significantly, the SAF are newcomers to the camp of opposition to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, and the first northern political organization to decide on armed struggle as an option in pursuit of the goal of bringing down the regime. For the past few decades, opposition political forces in Sudan have opted for peaceful means to bring about change. Armed struggle was the preserve of the southern forces, like "Nyana," and "the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]." The SAF is the first northern organization to follow the path of armed struggle to effect change in Khartoum.

The SAF ranks as the most powerful opposition faction. So much so, that it is now seen by observers as the military arm of the Sudanese opposition. They cite two attacks by the SAF last month: the "Martyr al-Tayih Operation" and the "Martyr 'Abd-al-Mun'im Kamir Operation", in which al-Bashir's regular forces had the upper hand.

To shed light on the various hues of the Sudanese political spectrum, we interviewed Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, head of the SAF, who answered our questions with typical frankness:

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Let's begin where you left off. What can you tell us about the second attack staged by the SAF, known as "Martyr 'Abd-al-Mun'im Kamir Operation"?

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[Khalid] The operation was part of the armed struggle to defeat the Islamic Front regime. We call on comrades in arms in the Sudanese Armed Forces, the police, and other regular forces to join the armed popular uprising. As for the operation in question, on 19 May 1996, regiments from our mobile forces deployed on our eastern borders carried out the attack somewhere 30 km southeast of the Nahr al-Qash delta, where we set an ambush for the popular defense forces, "al-Turabi's militia". The ensuing battle left six killed and 20 wounded, and the regime's forces fled. We had advance knowledge of the movements of al-Turabi's forces in that area, which is close to Kassala, the capital city of the eastern region.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Sudanese Government sources sought to devalue the operation, saying it targeted the armed forces of the people and claimed that you did not gain much from it. How do you react?

[Khalid] We have grown used to the regime's lies and misrepresentations. The overall guide, Dr. al-Turabi, is the ultimate political Machiavellian for whom the end justifies the means. I would like to make it clear that the "Martyr 'Abd-al-Mun'im Kamir Operation" was not the first attack. It came after the "Martyr al-Tayih Operation," in the aftermath of which the regime propagandists made the same flimsy claim. The general command in Khartoum withdrew its regular forces from the eastern garrison a long time ago and replaced it with the popular defense militia and members of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and "the Islamic Jihad" group out of fear that our calls would persuade the regular forces to join the SAF. The locations where the battles took place are precincts of the Popular Defense Forces. We actually captured some members of these militia forces; a number of our Arab brothers who have fallen for Khartoum's slogans and the state of the civilized project are also being held in eastern Sudan.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Will you tell us about the Arab fighters enrolled with the Popular Defense Forces?

[Khalid] We have known about them for a long time. We learned that, earlier this year, Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi this year met with leading figures from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad in Khartoum and sought their assistance to protect Sudan's eastern gate against ongoing threats by the SAF and the opposition remnants based in Asmara. But Hamas and Islamic Jihad set the condition that their cadres play a supportive role alongside the central government forces, rather than join them in the same trench, on the grounds that are Christians and nondevout Muslims in their ranks. This provided an opportunity for al-Turabi to save his regular troops to battle the SPLA in southern Sudan. At the same time, this would guard against the Hamas and Jihad fighters being swayed by SAF to switch sides and join the ranks of the armed popular uprising.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Do you think the Islamic Front regime in Khartoum has succeeded in detaching patriotic forces from the eastern front and sending them into action in the ongoing war in the south?

[Khalid] This plan has not worked for them and the proof is the defection of large numbers of regular armed forces personnel to our side, the highest ranking of them being Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Nur, commander of the Kassala Garrison. The regime's foundations have been shaken by our successive victories, which have also struck terror in the hearts of its leaders. We know that the military command in Khartoum has considerably beefed up the 20th Brigade with various forces in order to deploy them in eastern Sudan. At the same time, we have learned that the central military command has mobilized the vaunted special commando unit, called "Lions of the Jungle" — which is heavily touted by the official media as being outfitted with the most up-to-date automatic weapons to keep its fighters in optimum shape for combat. We are absolutely certain that the "Lions of the Jungle" have received training at Tehran's military institutions under the command of "Amir Khost", an Iranian expert working for Sudan's Public Security Department.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] How accurate are Western reports purporting that the SAF have received military backing from the United States after it took over from the United Nations forces in Somalia? U.S. weapons intended for you were said to have been transported via the Red Sea port of Massawa [in Eritrea].

[Khalid] You will be surprised if I tell you that our arms and equipment have all been procured from the ruling regime itself. In any case, we will be prepared to take on both the devil and the central government. We have got what it takes to achieve victory. We have adopted the principle of a popular armed struggle to bring down the regime, much as we respect calls for pursuing nonviolent political action by certain opposition circles. However, faced with a sinister regime, we have had to resort to and step up military action and jihad to defeat the military machine of the Islamic Front.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Many Arab quarters have voiced apprehension that the pan-Arab security system may suffer as a consequence of your continued success and alignment with John Garang, as well as your strong relations with Eritrea, which has distinguished relations with Israel.

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[Khalid] It is the Khartoum regime itself that threatens the pan-Arab security system. The best guarantee for the pan-Arab and pan-Islamic security system would be to get rid of the Khartoum regime, which has turned the country into a hangout for terrorist groups. By harboring such bands, the regime has not only compromised pan-Arab security, but it has also hurt the image of Arabs and Muslims. It has made Sudan a terror-sponsoring state and has stigmatized the Arabs and Muslims. As for our relations with Eritrean leader Isaias Afwerki, what's wrong with that? The man is free to establish diplomatic relations with Israel or any other country he chooses. What's wrong with that? Many Arab states have established and normalized ties with Israel. Even the Khartoum regime itself has been seeking to establish ties with Israel for some time. It seems that those who worry about the pan-Arab security system are out of touch with developments and not quite aware of the real threats to pan-Arab security.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] While we are at it, Khartoum was recently reported to be pursuing contacts to establish diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv. What do you know about this?

[Khalid] Such talks, thus far secret, have been going on for quite some time. They are being conducted by leading figures in the regime, such as Ghazi Salah al-Din, who is secretary of the ruling party's political organization, and 'Ali Hajj Muhammad, minister of federal relations. Numerous rounds of talks have been held in Arab capitals. We realize that this is an attempt to buy U.S. favor and weasel out of the obligations required by UN Security Council Resolution 1454. We are fully informed about what is happening, both in the open and in secret, and not least in the area of exporting Sudanese meat to Israel. Tel Aviv now ranks as one of the most important markets for Sudanese meat, which reaches Israel through a neighboring Arab state. We have lately noted an increase in the number of cargo flights from Khartoum to the capital of this Arab state at the rate of one flight every three hours.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Observers of the Sudanese scene, noting a strong SAF presence in Asmara, wonder whether you fell out with Egypt, where you were based to begin with.

[Khalid] Since the Islamic Front took control of things on 30 June 1989, Sudanese opposition has sought asylum in Egypt, since our relations with Egypt are not of the kind governed by the political mood of the ruling elite that prevails at one time or another. Sudan's relations with Egypt are as ancient as the Nile. Relations between the two peoples are historic; they have roots so deep that nothing can weaken them.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] What do you think about the 26 June 1995 attempt on the life of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during the African summit in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa?

[Khalid] The UN Security Council issued Resolution 1454 on the matter. We are sure that al-Turabi's regime was involved in the attempted assassination. Preparations for the attack were made as far back as March, during the sessions of the Arab, Islamic Congress at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. Our sources observed that al-Turabi held a meeting at the fifth floor of Friendship Hall that was attended by Ayman al-Zawahiri, Rif'at Taha, Mustafah Hamzah, and Qasim Hidayatallah from Egypt; Fathi al-Shiqaqi and 'Abdallah al-Shalah from the Palestinian "Islamic Jihad" organization; Abu-Marquq and Muhammad Nazzal from Hamas; and 'Adnan Sa'd-al-Din from the Muslim Brotherhood's international organization. Our sources said the meeting participants considered a detailed plan to assassinate the Egyptian president. Mustafah Hamzah was charged with preparing the equipment needed to execute the plan. Ayman al-Zahiri was tasked with putting on the final touches.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Coinciding with talk about the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president, there have been calls against imposing sanctions on Sudan to avoid a repeat of the Iraqi and Libyan examples. What do you think?

[Khalid] We support all forms of sanctions—diplomatic, economic, and military. The sanctions will help the Sudanese people, who are now engaged in an armed popular uprising. In my opinion, advancing such justifications as an argument against sanctions are merely shallow sentiments. Economic sanctions, we think, will bring nothing new. Our people already suffer from poverty, illness, and hunger. Apply the sanctions will have symbolic significance only. As for the Islamic Front, it will not be affected, because it has years of ample supplies. Any hard-line position on the part of the UN Security Council will bolster peace and security and spare the region a grave confrontation with unpredictable consequences.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Sudan and Ethiopia have been engaged in a war of words. Addis Ababa speaks about a Sudanese military buildup and attacks on civilians, and Khartoum warns about plans for military adventurism by Ethiopia. How do you explain this?

[Khalid] Addis Ababa has raised the temperature of the crisis with the Khartoum regime and brought their differences before the Security Council. This demonstrates that Addis Ababa is not contemplating any military action against Sudan. Ethiopia's charges that Khartoum

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was involved in the attempted assassination of the Egyptian President are still pending before the Security Council. The charges against Khartoum ring hollow; they have been made to grab headlines only.

The Khartoum regime has drawn attention to itself by issuing threats against Eritrea, hitting opposition camps on the eastern borders, and playing host to many Iranian experts who arrived in the Sudanese capital in the guise of workers in joint ventures between Sudan and Iran. Our sources in Khartoum, however, affirm that they are military experts. They were seen in large numbers in military industrialization zones, especially the ammunition depots in al-Shajarah District, in Khartoum. They have also been seen at the paratroop corps in Khartoum and at military training camps in al-Kadru District, in northern Khartoum. Estimated to number around 200, the Iranians are said to have brought modern "BMB" half-tracks along with them. We understand that these arrangements are meant as a show of force to intimidate Eritrea and Ethiopia and to use against the SAF on our eastern borders.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] The palace agreement has been hailed by the Islamic Front as one of the most important government successes since it took office. What do you think?

[Khalid] Riak Mashar and Carbino Paul [names as transliterated] remind me of the Frankfurt agreement that left the SPLA split into two factions. We now see the same game being played out. The Khartoum regime hopes to split Riyak Mashar's faction, and it has actually succeeded in doing that. Fulam Kur [name as transliterated] preferred to pull out, thus splitting the group promoting independence for southern Sudan into two factions. The Mashar-Karbino agreement may be viewed by some as a victory for the Khartoum Government, when in actual fact it favors the opposition. This is because, after the palace agreement, Mashar's forces joined John Garang's SPLA.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Would you say the SAF is an independent faction or the military arm of the group?

[Khalid] We are a political force, like any faction within the framework of the National Grouping, which incorporates various groups of the Sudanese people. Public organizations of students, youth, women, and other sectors of society are under its umbrella. I would like to emphasize that we are not the military wing of the National Grouping. But we are prepared to coordinate with National Grouping factions that believe in the popular armed uprising. The SAF is an all-Sudan movement that embraces all the people of the country, with its diversified regions and tribes. The SAF is there to play the part of the military wing of the National Grouping, if it is asked to do so.

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Bahrain

Bahrain: Rights Group Says Confessions May Have Been 'Forced'

NC1206155496 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, June 12 (AFP) - Amnesty International on Wednesday [12 June] charged that televised confessions by six Shiite Muslims who said they plotted to topple the Bahraini Government may have been forced from the men.

"Amnesty International is concerned that the confessions may have been extracted under pressure as a result of torture or ill-treatment," the rights group said in a statement sent to AFP.

"The men are being held incommunicado detention and Amnesty International has documented cases in which many such detainees have been tortured in order to extract confessions from them.

"Amnesty International fears that the detainees will remain at risk of torture or ill-treatment as long as they are held without access to lawyers or relatives."

The confessions were televised on June 5 after Bahrain for the first time openly accused Iran of fomenting unrest in the Gulf archipelago and backing a plot to overthrow the government by a group named as the Hizballah-Bahrain.

Iran has categorically denied the allegations, and the row has led to a diplomatic flare-up between the two countries who have recalled their ambassadors.

Bahraia has been shaken by a wave of sporadic political violence since December 1994 in which at least 22 people have been killed. Protesters led by Shiite Muslims have been demanding the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975 by the Sunni-led authorities.

Amnesty said the confessions could also "prejudice the outcome of a trial."

Bahrain: Conspiracy Group Allegedly Controlled From Qom

MS1206123996 London THE GUARDIAN in English 12 Jun 96 p 14

[Report by Kathy Evans: "Bahrain Plot 'Is Led From Qom'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bahrain — Hezbollah Bahrain, an Iranian group alleged to be behind a conspiracy to overthrow the island's government, is guided by a Bahraini cleric based in Iran's holy city of Qom, according to foreign security officials on the island.

Shaykh Isa al-Qasim is believed to act as the spiritual mentor and link to Tehran for the small community of Bahraini religious students in Qom. The group is said by Bahraini officials to have received assistance and military training by Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Bahraini Shiites who wanted to become clerics formerly studied in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf. But the Iran-Iraq war and the sanctions which followed the invasion of Kuwait forced many to travel to Qom instead.

Today, Shiite religious authorities say that about 250 Bahrainis study in Qom, under the guidance of senior ayatollahs including Shaykh Isa al-Qasim. These students form the core of the leadership of Hezbollah Bahrain, say informed sources.

Members of Shiite religious circles in Bahrain said yesterday that the Qom-based students were now banned from returning home. However, Bahrain's foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak, denied this. "Those who have not been part of activities against the government are free to return, but those who have will face investigation," he said.

Sources add, however, that the Qom-led faction is only part of a labyrinth of networks leading back to Iran. Officials also point to the Islamic Front for the Liberation Of Bahrain, which has offices in Tehran and Damascus.

Bahrain's recent allegation of a conspiracy against its government followed the round-up of 56 Islamic militants in Bahrain in recent months. Of them, six confessed on television to receiving money and military training in Iran and Lebanon.

Observers have noted inconsistencies in the confessions and lawyers have suggested that broadcasting the statements gives grounds for declaring a mistrial. "By law, you cannot publish people's names or their pictures until they have been convicted," said one Bahraini lawyer.

Foreign Observers say that the nipping in the bud of an Iranian-backed conspiracy is unlikely to stem unrest. "Most of this problem is local and it is not likely to touch the opposition's core demand for democracy," said one senior foreign official.

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Iraq: 'Aziz Comments on UN Inspection Team

NC1206151696 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1245 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (MENA)—Iraq has reiterated its readiness to cooperate with the UN Security Council's Special Commission, objectively and free from provocative attempts that have tendentious political motives. In a statement to INA, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said: "Iraq has a right to [words indistinct] for legitimate reasons the entry of inspectors who belong to countries with [word indistinct] schemes targeting it into sites that relate to national security and performing activities of an intelligence nature to serve their countries [words indistinct] the special Commission specified in the UN Security Council resolutions." He added: The head of the team consisting of [words indistinct] people, Rolf Ekeus, whom the head of the Special Commission insisted on sending to Iraq, requested yesterday [words indistinct] sites in the Abu Ghurayb area. We allowed the team to enter six sites, but did not allow it to enter two sites [words indistinct].

'Aziz pointed out that the team [words indistinct] inspected six of these sites [words indistinct] they alleged were hidden in them. He noted that the inspection team this morning resumed its provocative [word indistinct] and requested entering another site belonging to the Republican Guards in Baghdad. We did not allow it to enter this site, but allowed it to enter a number of industrial sites. He said that Iraq did not prevent the inspection team from entering the aforementioned sites to hide any banned material, as the Special Commission alleges, but because they are sites that relate to national security. He referred to Iraq's proposal, which the Iraqi representative to the United Nations submitted during his meeting with the Security Council president yesterday, in accordance with (?central instructions) to send a team representing the permanent members of the Security Council and the country that holds the presidency this month—Egypt—to Baghdad.

'Aziz said that Iraq will allow this team, whatever its nature, diplomats or experts, to enter the aforementioned sites or any other sites that the Special Commission claims have hidden documents or material to inspect them to make sure of our sound stance. He said that the inspections of the Special Commission have turned into an endless story, noting that 149 inspection teams belonging to this Commission have visited Iraq since 1991.

Reviewing part of Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission, 'Aziz said: "Every time they say they are looking for hidden things and enter the sites they want to inspect but find nothing, and then they come again and so on and so forth." He added: "The inspection teams began last March attempts to enter sites that relate to sovereignty and national security—the irrigation ministry and the Republican Guards—something that the Commission had not done before, apart from the agriculture ministry incident in 1992.

'Aziz emphasized that the Security Council permanent members are directly responsible for issuing, interpreting, and implementing the resolutions in a fair and balanced way and to reach a conclusion on whether they were implemented or not. He called for direct intercession of the permanent members of the Security Council to make sure that Iraq is hiding nothing and that it has fulfilled all the substantial obligations of resolution 687, which make the Security Council responsible for fulfilling its obligations outlined in the resolution and implementing clause 22 without delay.

(Charles Dulfer), deputy head of the Security Council Special Commission, stressed during his visit to Iraq last March that the inspection team did not obtain any documents during its inspection of the irrigation ministry. In a news conference before leaving Baghdad, where he held intensive talks with Iraqi officials, he said: "I have completed my talks and I can describe my visit as a fruitful and constructive one, during which we have exchanged views." He added: "Iraq handed us all the documents that the Special Commission will review and assess." He stressed that "the statements he received were final and complete." He said that "Iraq showed commitment to continuing full cooperation with the Special Commission and the United Nations."

Iraq: Envoy to UN 'Amazed' at Ekeus Inspection Request

MM1306090496 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
13 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "Tariq 'Aziz Rejects 'Provocation'; Washington Refuses To Send Security Council Mission to Baghdad; Ekeus Says: Iraq Defying Inspection Experts"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York — The [UN] Security Council has insisted that the Iraqi Government allow the Special Commission's inspection teams to "have immediate and unconditional access to any of the areas" they wish to inspect in Iraq. Meanwhile Baghdad has officially informed the council of its proposal for the five permanent member states of the Security Council to send a "special mission" to enter any site or building that the Special Commission entrusted with dismantling banned weapons claims "contains documents or banned substances." But Washington rejected the proposal.

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[Special Commission] Chairman [Rolf] Ekeus said that it is "most likely" that Baghdad is concealing banned substances, describing the Iraqi stand as "defiance." [passage omitted]

Iraqi Ambassador [to the United Nations] Nizar Hamdun told AL-HAYAH that Ekeus "knows that visiting such sites (locations belonging to the Republican Guard) is a sensitive issue to which it is difficult for the Iraqis to agree." He went on: "I am amazed that he (Ekeus) should order inspection operations of that kind at this particular time, especially as Tariq 'Aziz invited him to visit Iraq this week and he accepted the invitation in order to discuss outstanding problems, including the sites suspected of containing banned substances."

Hamdun added that Iraq believes that "sites of that kind are sensitive," pointing out that the international teams of the Special Commission have carried out 149 inspection operations in Iraq since 1991. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Reconsideration of UN Special Commission Role Urged

JN1306082896 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers published here today demanded that the UN Security Council immediately reconsider the UN Special Commission's role and responsibilities and end the U.S. and British control over the inspection teams' activities.

AL-'IRAQ accuses Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, of adopting a policy that departs from the UN objectives and conforms to the hostile U.S. and British objectives against Iraq.

AL-'IRAQ expresses its full conviction that Ekeus works outside of the role drawn by the United Nations and the Security Council and that he is involved in implementing hostile objectives against Iraq. The paper says that the UN Special Commission is not eager or serious about setting a specific deadline on the inspection committees' work.

AL-'IRAQ adds that the UN Special Commission always creates an uproar, casts doubts, levels false accusations, and turns things upside down with regard to materials and documents concealed at some sites. However, the Special Commission ultimately and shamelessly admits that its expectations, calculations, and information—which were taken from U.S. intelligence circles—were wrong.

AL-THAWRAH expresses grave concern over the provocative practices of the inspection teams, the problems they fabricate every now and then, and their departure from their technical and professional tasks.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, urges the UN Security Council, represented by its permanent member states, to intervene quickly and supervise things directly so that matters do not remain outstanding or dependent on the mood of rancorous parties that have malicious political motives to obstruct the reciprocal commitments since Iraq has fulfilled all its substantive commitments with regard to Resolution 687. This makes it incumbent on the Security Council to implement Paragraph 22 of this resolution.

AL-THAWRAH warns against the policies pursued by UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus, who targets sites that are related to Iraqi national security. The paper says this kind of conduct is very serious and means that the UN Security Council must directly intervene to end this farce.

The newspaper calls the attention of the world community to the biased composition of the current 57-member inspection team. The majority of team members are U.S. and British nationals. These countries' anti-Iraq policies are widely known.

AL-QADISIYAH sees a link between the latest fuss created by the inspection team on 11 June and the numerous attempts by the U.S. and British administrations to abort the negotiations between Iraq and the United Nations on the memorandum of understanding. The paper says: The evil United States and Britain and their allies have done everything possible to obstruct the good efforts to lift the embargo against Iraq. They have always used the Special Commission and the inspection teams as a Trojan Horse to arrive at their mean objectives.

The paper says it is fully convinced that Iraq's proposal to set up a special commission that includes diplomats or experts from the UN Security Council member states and the current president of the UN Security Council, Egypt, to enter the sites that the inspection team insists on entering is the ideal formula to confirm Iraq's credibility and intentions and to expose the evil intentions and goals under which the Special Commission and its inspection teams function.

Iraq: English Daily Hopes for Complete Lifting of Sanctions

JN1206155296 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 12, INA — An Iraqi daily has stressed that Iraq has made it clear that partial lifting or mitigation of sanctions can only be

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considered as a first concrete step toward lifting of all the sanctions.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that the signing of the memorandum of understanding by Iraq and the UN was described by many as a necessary and temporary measure.

It is a necessary step to help alleviate, even partially, some of the hardships which the Iraqi people have been suffering from the imposition of UN harsh sanctions on Iraq early August 1990, it added.

The paper pointed out that it was confirmed by many UN and other organizations that sanctions have inflicted immeasurable harm on the Iraqi people who had been prior to the sanctions of the most advanced in the region in economic, social, cultural and industrial terms.

Iraq has implemented all UN resolutions, regardless of their legitimacy, in letter and spirit, so it is natural that these harmful and harsh sanctions should be lifted, the paper said.

The paper charged some big powers of hindering realization of implementing that goal for political reasons, adding that it has been suggested that a partial mitigation of sanctions would at least help ward off some of their catastrophic consequences.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER concluded by expressing the hope that given Iraqi authorities' cooperation with the UN Special Committee, this agreement on the oil for food, medicine and other humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people would eventually lead to the implementation of Para 22 of Resolution 687, the full lifting of the sanctions.

Iraq: Trade Minister Urges Accords With U.S. Firms

BR1206143296 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian 12 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by Alberto Negri: "Business Enthusiasm Returns to Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad — With a martial gesture the Iraqi trade minister produced a calculator from his pocket: "The 'food-in-exchange-for-oil' agreement with the United Nations leaves us, once we have deducted the amounts for war reparations and expenses, $2.225 billion per month. Before the sanctions we were importing $4 billion worth of foodstuffs and medicines. This means that we will now be able to meet 60 percent of our requirements only." "All in all, it is better than nothing," remarked Muhammad Mahdi Salih.

Salih appeared on TV a few days ago to dampen the euphoria that exploded in Baghdad following the announcement of the agreement with the United Nations. "Do not rush to the shops, otherwise shopkeepers will again raise their prices," he warned. But in a country where the lack of medicines and malnutrition have multiplied infant mortality by five — 560,000 children have died as a result of the embargo, according to the FAO [UN Food and Agricultural Organization] — very little indeed is required to rekindle hope.

"Life will again be easy and cheap," a young Shiite from Basra said, as he pulled along a sack of rice to sell it in the marketplace. Prices here see-saw vertiginously on the dinar-dollar exchange rate: This is now 800 to 1, three months ago it plummeted to 4,000 to 1. On the day of the agreement at the Glass Palace [UN headquarters] it soared to 400 to one.

Whispers and shouts alternately mark the schizophrenic pace of Iraqis' lives. A report in a Jordanian newspaper made people believe that the United Nations was preparing to distribute 24 bottles of soda water, 10 kg of flour, seven kg of rice, and five kg of sugar to every Iraqi. A real godsend — and of course everybody believed it. Similarly, at one point people rushed to the central bank to exchange dinars for dollars. Government officials had spread the rumor that the U.S. Treasury was about to withdraw the old $100 bills from circulation. Saddam Hussein even resorted to this stratagem to replenish the government's empty coffers.

With an empty belly, and without proper information, people are liable to believe anything, for example that Saddam did not immediately destroy the arsenals so as to prolong the embargo, or that his son in law, Hussayn Kamel (who was killed as soon as he returned to Baghdad) fled to Jordan with his consent to find a safe place to keep the family fortune: $11 billion, the well-informed claim, which will now be inherited by his wife and children. The truth is that once upon a time the Iraqis' average annual income was $6,000, whereas now they have to survive on less than $600. Formerly the telephone service was free, electrical power cheap, and taxes were only a minor inconvenience which could be settled in a friendly fashion by bribing the taxman. Today, however, everyone is called upon to pay because the state is broke.

At school, before the war, uniforms, shoes, books, and paper were free. Students now are entitled to only three copybooks and six pencils per year. One thing that has not changed, though, is the national anthem, which is sung every morning by the children lined up in the schoolyard like so many little soldiers. What is more, the patriotic song-repertory has been increased with the addition of a "hymn against the embargo." But for the generation which has grown up in the era of sanctions,

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the Iraqi welfare state — the pride of the ruling Ba'ath party — belongs to a distant fanciful past like the "Tales of One Thousand And One Nights."

The war economy and the rationing of food by means of rationing cards — a formidable instrument of power — have contributed to keeping Saddam in the saddle. This was indirectly confirmed by Deputy Sultan Alshawi [name as published], who teaches Law at Baghdad University, and who got his doctorate in Italy with a thesis which he debated with Vassalli and Leone. "Reconstruction and rationing," he said, "have saved us. Six months after the bombings we had water, electricity, and gasoline, and nobody died of hunger." Once the bridges over the Tigris and the main installations were rebuilt, Saddam launched a veritable "bricklaying boom" in the postwar period: houses, towers, mosques. Today, however, the building sites are at a standstill. Even the works to build the great Baghdad mosque, which was supposed to rival the one in Mecca, are frozen.

Life now goes on in emergency conditions. "We are helping over 2 million people here in Iraq," World Food Program Director al-Jaloudi [name as published] said, "80 percent of the people are sinking below the poverty threshold. The situation is tragic. In the years immediately after the war Iraqis lived on their savings, then they sold their personal belongings, now all they have left is the clothes on their backs." In the country of black gold there is no "white gold," namely milk, which is rationed even for babies under one year of age.

Of course, some are thriving in this situation: traders, smugglers, and privileged people in power, who travel in Mercedes cars with tinted windows. They live in Jadeira and Mansour [names as published], the affluent, regime-sponsored residential sections comprising villas with tidy gardens, water in the swimming pools, and soldiers who warily level their Kalashnikovs at any passer-by displaying too much curiosity. None of them ever travels as far as Saddam City, where one of the anti-regime revolts broke out. Some 1 million people live in Baghdad's outskirts, gathered there by the Rais from all over Iraq, particularly from the southern Shiite areas. In the streets of Saddam City, looking even more baleful than usual because of the holy month black flags, the children's favorite game is to light gasoline: One lt costs 100 times less than a kg of bread.

Everybody knows that, thanks to the oil from Shatt al-'Arab and Kirkuk [names as published], Iraq could once again be the land of good business. "Our power stations," Luigi Bocca (of the Ansaldo company) said, "were producing 40 percent of the country's energy requirements, there are contracts here worth hundreds of millions of dollars. We have now given the Iraqis a hand to repair the turbines of the Beji [name as published] power station, without asking for anything in exchange, in the shape of humanitarian aid, as a sort of preamble to resuming business relations." In the wake of the oil companies, businessmen are arriving from everywhere to secure supply orders, tenders, contracts. Over the years of the embargo, through "triangle" arrangements with Jordanian companies, products from all over the world — including U.S. Westinghouse turbines and Israeli foodstuffs — have readily reached Iraq.

We are prepared to enter into business agreements with U.S. companies," Trade Minister Salih stated. "This sort of agreement could help ease relations." Faced with an uncertain future, the Iraqis are exploring every avenue to ease the burden of sanctions. Relations with Damascus are improving and it is being said that it will not be long before the border between the two countries is reopened. Baghdad is reported to have asked Iran to transfer to Damascus the 120 Iraqi military aircraft which fled to Teheran during the Gulf War. Even the barman at the Tashid Hotel had an "indiscretion" to recount: As of 1 July alcoholic beverages will again be for sale in public places. "Perhaps," he said, exaggerating things, "it will be Saddam Hussayn himself making the announcement." As usual, rumors, whispers, shouts follow us throughout Baghdad. Fate, and their Caliph, are forcing people to tell each other 1,001 stories to survive the daily tragedy.

Iraq: Trade Minister Meets Russian Official

JN1206155896 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1125 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA) — Today Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met with 'Uthman al-Hadi Ibrahim, Sudanese minister of foreign trade, and his accompanying delegation, who are visiting Iraq. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two fraternal countries. They also discussed the role of Sudanese trade companies in supplying Iraq with foodstuffs and other basic needs, per the agreement with the United Nations.

The Sudanese minister expressed his country's pride in the Iraqi people's steadfastness and confrontation of imperialist schemes that try to undermine its independence and national sovereignty. The Sudanese minister noted that Sudanese trade and industrial companies are fully prepared to supply Iraq with the basic food and medicine needs, as stipulated in the memorandum of understanding signed on 20 May.

The Sudanese delegation includes representatives of trade and industrial firms and the private sector.

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Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih also met today with Vladimir Karastin, Russia's deputy minister for foreign economic relations. Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the guest delegation discussed ways to bolster trade and economic relations between the two friendly countries. They also talked about the possibility of Russian companies supplying Iraq with food, medicine, and other basic needs, which were agreed on in the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the UN General Secretariat on 20 May.

The Russian official expressed his country's desire to meet Iraq's needs of basic commodities and make trade offers to cement relations between the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by the Russian ambassador in Baghdad and several specialists at the Trade Ministry.

Iraq: Russia To Supply Power Stations Spare Parts

JN1206175096 Baghdad INA in English
1238 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 12, INA — Russian Deputy Trade Minister [title as received] Vladimir Karastin has reemphasized his country's insistence on ending the Iraqi people's suffering by implementing Para 22 of Resolution 687.

Interviewed by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, the Russian official said a big Russian delegation, made of personalities, representatives of industry and trade companies and experts, will visit Iraq to be acquainted with the Iraqi people's needs of food, medicine and other basic requirements in the light of the Iraq-UN memorandum of understanding

He said the UN Sanctions Committee has accepted a Russian request to supply Iraq with spare parts needed by the power stations of al-Nasiriyah and al-Najibiyah [last place name as received].

The Russian official said the Russian mission at the UN will continue to submit other requests in coordination with the Iraqi side.

On the other hand, an extended report has been compiled and will be discussed during meetings of the Iraqi-Russian Joint Commission, due to be held soon.

Iraq: French Delegation Signs Agreements, Departs

JN1206185496 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0945 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA) — The French-Iraqi Economic Cooperation Society delegation led by Michael Grimare [name as transliterated], head of the society, left Baghdad today.

The French official said the society's delegation held a number of meetings with the Iraqi officials on developing economic cooperation between Iraq and France.

The visit by the French delegation, which included representatives of French food and medical companies, resulted in the signing of a number of joint economic agreements, including an agreement to establish a French-Iraqi Chamber of Commerce that offers commercial services to the French companies operating with the Iraqi establishments and companies and entrenches bilateral cooperation in the interests of the two countries.

In a bid to strengthen economic relations between Iraq and France after the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations, Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, Iraqi oil minister, is visiting France for talks with French officials and representatives of oil, food, and medical companies.

In press statements in Paris, the minister lauded France's role in lifting the siege imposed on Iraq. He also hailed their historical friendly bilateral relations and emphasized that preferential treatment will be given to the French companies regarding buying Iraqi oil and selling food and medical materials to Iraq in appreciation of the French role.

Iraq: Opposition Groups Prepare for Meeting in Tehran

MM1306105996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
13 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Ghassan Bin-Jiddu: "Al-Hakim Tells AL-HAYAH: Iraqi Opposition Preparing for Meeting in Tehran Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran — Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the Iraqi oppositionists, members of the follow-up committee, who met in the Syrian capital two months ago will hold a preliminary meeting in Tehran soon to prepare for an expanded meeting of the opposition factions.

He confirmed that he has sent invitations to leaders of the pan-Arab tendency who are in Damascus, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani, Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani, and leaders of the groups belonging to the Islamic tendency who are in Iran.

The leaders and representatives of 10 opposition factions met in Damascus in April and discussed ways of coordinating and reactivating the opposition's activities

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"in order to bring about change and topple the regime in Baghdad."

Al-Hakim noted that "officials of the 10 parties who participated in the consultation meeting in Damascus responded (to his invitation) and sent messages stressing the importance of holding a meeting of the follow-up committee." He noted that some of them proposed that bilateral meetings be held in Tehran to prepare for the follow-up committee meeting. He added that Talabani and Barzani confirmed their parties' participation in the Tehran meeting.

Al-Hakim did not specify a date for the meeting. However, a leading source in an Iraqi opposition faction in the Iranian capital expects it to be held next week. The source does not believe that "the Tehran meetings will achieve tangible results." The source said: "It seems clear that the opposition is experiencing a vacuum representing a state of political loss due to the lack of a real program for change and the opposition factions' inability to define long-term mechanisms for coordination among themselves."

The source said that the oil-for-food agreement between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations will contribute to boosting the economic situation in Iraq, and as a result the opposition will face complications in field action inside the country — which could delay the change process."

However, al-Hakim believes that the boosting of the Iraqi people's economic conditions "will serve the opposition's activities inside the country, because when the people have the resources, they will be better able to play their role in the change process." Nevertheless, he does not believe that "the people will benefit from the oil revenues, which are stolen by the regime through deception. Thus the opposition could face a threat if the regime uses this money to hit the people's capabilities and resources."

He said that he recently sent a number of Supreme Assembly officials to New York, where they met with Security Council members, urging them to "set clear and specific conditions in order to prevent the regime from using these revenues to rebuild its military machine or to exert political pressure on the Iraqi people."

Al-Hakim pointed to the Syrian leadership's enthusiasm for the idea "of holding a consultation meeting of the opposition factions to discuss ways of bringing about change." He believes Damascus could host an expanded meeting of the Iraqi opposition parties after the Tehran meeting.

Al-HAYAH has learned from a reliable Iraqi opposition source in Tehran that Iran will soon send invitations to a large number of Iraqi opposition leaders to visit Tehran and meet with state officials.

Iraq: 2 Kurdish Rival Factions Clash at Mosque in Sirchinar

JN1206160296 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 12, INA — Militia of the so-called Islamic Movement have clashed with elements of security of Jalal Talabani at a mosque in the Sirchinar area of the Kurdish al-Sulaymaniyah Province. According to a report published in AL-'IRAQ daily on Wednesday [12 June], more than three people were killed or injured.

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Israel: Netanyahu on Orient House, Government Formation, Golan

TA1206135696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Netanyahu government will adopt a different line than that of its predecessor on the question of Orient House and other attempts by the Palestinian Authority to operate in Jerusalem in contravention of the interim agreement.

A communique issued by the prime minister-elect's spokesman reiterates that only Netanyahu's bureau is authorized to engage in a dialogue on his behalf with elements in the Arab and international arenas. The incoming prime minister expects all elements in the international arena to take the transition period between the two governments into consideration and abstain from taking steps that might hurt the peace process. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Netanyahu's spokesman reported that he will not put off the establishment of his government, taking into consideration the announcement of Tzomet Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan. The latter conferred at noon with Netanyahu, and our correspondent Yaron Deqel has learned that he proposed that the prime minister-elect not appoint him a cabinet minister for the time being, until the police have completed the investigation of his case. Consequently, Netanyahu decided not to put off the presentation of his government and to retain the portfolio earmarked for Eytan.

Yehuda Wolman, a Golan settlement leader and Third Way member, conferred with Binyamin Netanyahu today and heard from him that his government will increase investments in the Golan. Wolman demanded to include in the government's basic guidelines a clause guaranteeing that Israel will remain on the Golan and retain its sovereignty in the area under any peace arrangement.

Israel: Netanyahu Puts Off U.S. Visit Until Jul

TA1206153396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Binyamin Netanyahu's office announced a short while ago that the prime minister-elect's trip to the United States, which had been tentatively planned for later this month, will not take place until some time in July. Netanyahu's office says that the prime minister-elect needs enough time to prepare for the trip.

[Later on in the newscast the announcer adds: "Netanyahu's office said today that the prime minister-elect has told outgoing Premier Shim'on Peres to move ahead, even before Netanyahu takes over, on activating the monitoring group on Lebanon."]

Israel: Netanyahu To Take 'Pragmatic' Political Plan to U.S.

TA1306090196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jun 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu has decided to postpone his trip to the United States to the first half of July and not to hold it in about two weeks as he had planned. Netanyahu's office announced yesterday that time was needed to organize and prepare the visit while taking into account the various political and defense issues on the agenda.

Netanyahu informed the U.S. Administration that he wishes to present in Washington a comprehensive political plan to continue the negotiations with the Palestinians and Syrians, and that he is going to work out his strategy in the coming weeks.

Netanyahu conveyed messages to the administration that his political plan would be "pragmatic," and that he intends to show flexibility on the issues on the agenda, such as the Hebron pullout, continued aid to the Palestinian Authority [PA], and implementation of the understandings in south Lebanon.

In closed meetings he held over the past few days, Netanyahu spoke in favor of security cooperation with the PA. He said that he had learned from the heads of the security services that in recent months the Palestinians had made a serious effort to fight terrorism.

Netanyahu has urged Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit Israel prior to his Washington visit in order to give him a detailed review of the peace process from America's viewpoint.

Political sources said yesterday that "Netanyahu's first visit to Washington is especially important, and there is no point in shooting from the hip, giving a nice speech and returning home. We have to prepare for it."

Another consideration in postponing the visit is the Arab summit meeting in Cairo later this month. Netanyahu wants to avoid the impression that his trip to Washington is being made under pressure of the hard-line positions presented by Syria and Egypt. Jerusalem believes that the further the Washington visit is from the summit the less impact it will have.

Netanyahu's office held contacts with Washington over the past few days in an attempt to improve the tense

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atmosphere in the Middle East following the Israeli elections and to avoid a superfluous escalation. The United States called on the Arab capitals to moderate their comments about Netanyahu and his government.

Netanyahu declared yesterday that he "expects all elements in the international arena to act responsibly during the transitional period prior to the establishment of the new government, and not to participate in moves that could harm the peace process."

His announcement avoided dealing directly with the Damascus announcement, the Cairo summit, or proposals raised in the EU to issue a tough declaration on Jerusalem.

Outgoing Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is due to arrive in the? United States before Netanyahu. Peres has been invited to receive the Philadelphia Prize on 4 July.

Netanyahu informed Peres yesterday that he agrees to renew the negotiations on the???stablishment of a follow-up committee to implement the understandings in south Lebanon. The issue came up in the Peres-Netanyahu discussion on 10 June and the prime minister called on his successor to form a position.

Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold met with political coordinator Uri Savir yesterday and informed him of the agreement to renew the deliberations. A date for the talks has still not been decided.

The political sources said that Netanyahu inherited a certain reality in south Lebanon, including the agre?ment of understandings achieved following Operation Grapes of Wrath. They said "the understandings were undesirable, but they are a reality that we accept, and Netanyahu is trying to take a positive and constructive stand."

Netanyahu's office broke its silence yesterday, and in the name of spokesman Shay Bazaq, issued a series of responses to political events. The announcement said that "the policy of the Netanyahu government toward Orient House and the PA's efforts to hold activities in Jerusalem contrary to the interim agreement will be different from that of the current government."

It also said that "the office of the prime minister-elect is the only body authorized to hold a dialogue with elements in the Arab arena and the international arena in the name of the prime minister-elect." That reaction refers to the al-Husayni-Roni Milo meeting on Tuesday [11 June] night.

Israel: NRP Approves Netanyahu Proposal, To Elect Ministers 16 Jun

TA1306104096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The NRP [National Religious Party] Central Committee will elect its ministers on Sunday [16 June] now that the party's Knesset faction has approved Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal with regard to the ministerial portfolios it will get. The NRP will receive the Education, Transportation, and Energy Ministries. The NRP will also have a deputy minister, and the Religious Affairs Ministry will rotate between the NRP and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. An NRP representative will also be chairman of the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee.

Rabbi Yitzhaq Levi, transportation minister-designate, told our correspondent Yaron Deqel that public services on the Sabbath, including bus transportation, would not be affected. He stressed his intention to maintain the status quo and pledged that the Transportation Ministry would not be run in a coercive fashion.

NRP Knesset Member Sha'ul Yahalom clarified that he was still wavering between accepting the post of deputy religious minister or serving as chairman of the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Comittee.

Israel: Peres Would 'Seriously Consider' Joining Unity Government

TA1206184196 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Talk in the studio between anchorman Hayim Yavin and party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] Shim'on Peres is prepared to seriously consider the establishment of a unity government led by Binyamin Netanyahu if a serious proposal is made. Is this true?

[Deqel] First of all I would like to quote some of Peres' remarks in recent days in talks with his associates: I am not a private man; Labor must take part in the political process; nevertheless, Labor cannot enter a government that does not guarantee a peace process; I don't need go-betweens, I have direct contacts — namely, with Netanyahu — on every issue.

The two men had two good meetings, especially the last one, where there was an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual appreciation. The two also held numerous phone conversations we know nothing about.

[Yavin] The two speak frequently on the phone.

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[Deqel] That is correct. I think the bottom line is that Peres is prepared to seriously consider a serious proposal to establish a unity government, and the increasing feeling in the political establishment is that such a government is possible without having Netanyahu harm the religious parties. I will now cite a formula, and this is not the code of a military unit: eight-eight-six. This means eight Labor ministers, eight Likud ministers, and six of the remaining partners: two from the National Religious Party, two from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and two from the other parties. This formula will exceed the 18 ministers provided by the law, but it could be the basis for a unity government. [passage omitted]

Peres said this morning that he does not plan to discuss party affairs at this point but that once he ceases being the prime minister he intends to rebuild Labor, and that he has no intention of bringing forward the election of his successor. Peres did not like at all Baraq's plans to bring forward the primaries for the election of Labor's chairman.

[Yavin] Is he angry at Baraq?

[Deqel] He is very displeased. And you know what? If a unity government is ultimately set up — and the chances still exist, although a narrow government is more likely — and the defense portfolio becomes available, it could very well go to Peres rather than to Baraq, and a Peres-Ramon front against Baraq could very well emerge eventually. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 12 June adds: "Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that Minister Ehud Baraq and his associate Giyora 'Eyni, who visited Peres at home this week, proposed to him to retire shortly and be appointed president of the party, a position that would be tailor-made for him. Peres turned down the proposal."]

Israel: Netanyahu, Peres Secretly Discuss Unity Government

TA1306110596 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Limor, Menahem Rahat, and Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres and Binyamin Netanyahu have been holding secret contacts for the establishment of a national unity government, sources close to the prime minister claim.

The sources said that the two discussed the issue several times over the telephone, with some of the discussions being held in the evening, from their homes, in order to reduce to a minimum the number of people involved.

The possibility of setting up a unity government was first raised in the Peres-Netanyahu meeting early last week. They did not discuss it directly, but the issue "hovered in the air." In private talks at the time, Peres said he believed that the chances of setting up a national unity government are virtually nil, and that he would not serve in a government under Netanyahu. But Peres has since changed his mind, apparently in the wake of contacts with the prime minister-elect.

In talks with some of those close to him, Peres said that Labor should join a unity government for two reasons: unity of the people and the continuation of the peace process. Peres also sent a clear message to senior members of his party, including Ministers Baraq, Ramon, and Beilin, that only he is authorized to handle contacts with Netanyahu on the matter. Peres' remarks followed various reports about contacts between senior Labor and Likud leaders. One of the contacts said that Peres agreed with Netanyahu "in principle and in general outlines" how a unity government would look. The initial idea was that each of the two major parties, Labor and Likud, would have six ministers, with the other coalition partners dividing the remaining six portfolios between them so as to keep the cabinet within the 18-minister limit set by law. It was then assumed, however, that an internal "intifadah" by senior members not appointed ministers would start in both large parties. Therefore, it was decided that Labor and Likud would each have eight ministers, while the other partners would get another six. That means that if a national unity government is set up, a law would have to be passed to permit an increase in the number of ministers from 18 to 22.

Other people close to Peres said that there are at present no contacts between the two leaders, but added that "Peres does not reject the idea of joining a unity government led by Netanyahu."

Peres does not intend to retire from political life, one of the reasons being that he intends to keep the option of a unity government open, the sources said.

Few people were aware of the Peres-Netanyahu secret contacts and as far as is known they did not discuss them even with senior party members. The division of portfolios in a unity government came up in the talks and it was agreed that Labor would get two of the three senior portfolios — defense, foreign affairs, and finance — as was done in Yitzhaq Shamir's unity government in 1988. Peres told Netanyahu that he would want to be defense minister in such a government, or alternatively, foreign minister exclusively in charge of the peace process. The second senior Labor portfolio under the

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initial agreement would be the Treasury, which Peres has earmarked for Yosi Beilin.

Ehud Baraq would not become defense minister in either of the scenarios discussed, and Peres would insist that a full balance be maintained between Baraq and Hayim Ramon so that neither would be in a preferential position for the future duel over party leadership.

The Likud flatly denies the reports about the possibility of a unity government. Netanyahu's office said that "false leaks have been deliberately leaked by Labor aimed at embarrassing Likud and its coalition partners."

Meanwhile, Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, leader of Lithuanian ultra-Orthodox Jewry, was visited yesterday by Rabbi Yosef Shalom Eliashiv, an important rabbi. Rabbi Schach said that he "totally forbids United Torah Jewry [UTJ] from joining the unity government." The rabbi also instructed UTJ to make every effort to foil the possibility of a unity government. Such a government should not be allowed to be set up with any left-wing party even if such party agrees to join in an inferior position, the rabbi said.

Israel: Egyptian Envoy Vows Support for Government Peace Move

TA1206154696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arab ambassadors and diplomats stationed in Israel met this morning at the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv for what Jordan's ambassador called the first of regular group meetings to discuss issues of concern. Egypt's Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni told reporter Dani Zaqen that a strategy of peace was the issue of the moment.

[Begin Basyuni recording] The elections — this is the Israeli people decide as they like. But the most important thing to us is the peace process because our strategy is a strategy of peace. And, as you see, six representatives are here because of the fruits of peace. Can you imagine, just to imagine, a few years ago that you will have here in Israel six Arab representatives are meeting to discuss? I think this is out of the imagination of the most optimistic fellow in the world.

So, as you know, the Arab countries took a strategic decision of solving the problem by peaceful means. It is our sincerest hope to see the new government as continuing to achieve just, lasting, and a comprehensive peace so that we, the people and the nations of this area, will live together in peace and friendship and to enjoy security, stability, and prosperity.

I am not worried because always, as you know me all these years, I am optimistic. Since I came here to Israel and, you know, always I am saying that I am optimistic and we will see with me brothers from other Arab countries. And, really, the dreams became a fact, and we have now six representatives. So, I hope, or my sincerest hope is that we can see the new government will continue to achieve peace.

If the Israeli Government will move they will find all the support. We will coordinate and cooperate with the new government. Any steps they will take toward achieving the peace, they will have all the support from all the Arab countries and all the world will support them. [end recording]

Israel: Arab Envoys Assess Election Results, Peace Process

TA1206125296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting attended by the envoys of Arab countries accredited to Israel, with the exception of the Omani and Moroccan envoys, was held today at the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv to assess the Israeli election results and the future of the peace process in the region.

'Umar al-Rifa'i, the Jordanian ambassador, said that meetings between Arab diplomats accredited to Israel will continue in the future as well. Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador, told our correspondent Shlomo Gindi that today's meeting came within framework of the Arab states' moves to review the situation.

Israel: Golan Settlers Plan Construction Drive Under New Government

TA1306111596 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the change of government in Israel, the construction drive on the Golan Heights is resuming. This, at least, is what Sami Bar-Lev, head of the Qatzrin Local Council, says. Our correspondent Or Heller reports from the Golan Heights:

[Begin Heller recording] The composition of the new government is still not final and no one even knows who the next construction and housing minister will be. Almost all the potential coalition partners are vying for this portfolio. Officials at the Golan Heights Regional Council, however, are already gearing up for what looks like a new construction drive on the Golan Heights.

On 11 June, Sami Bar-Lev, head of the Qatzrin Local Council, met with Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu in the latter's Knesset chambers. Bar-Lev,

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who came to hear a declaration of intent from Netanyahu with regard to the continued development of the Golan Heights under Israel's sovereignty, was not disappointed. Netanyahu reiterated his pledge that Qatzrin would become a city during the new government's current term, which means the building of approximately 14,000 housing units in Qatzrin.

This was Netanyahu's second meeting with Bar-Lev since the elections. Approximately one week ago, the two met together with Yehuda Wollman, chairman of the Golan Heights Regional Council. The two council heads presented their plan for the development of the Golan Heights, which calls for a construction drive throughout the entire plateau, to the prime minister-elect.

Apparently, the Golan settlers have reached the conclusion that Ari'el Sharon is the leading candidate for the construction and housing portfolio in Netanyahu's government and have already met with one of Sharon's senior aides, who, rumors say, will be appointed director general of the Construction and Housing Ministry.

Today, settlers on the Golan Heights are expressing the hope that following the change of government, a renewed construction drive will establish facts on the ground and perhaps prevent the return of the Golan Heights to Syria in the event of a future peace agreement. [end recording]

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Jordan: Sources Say 'High-Level' Contacts With Iraq Held

MM1206125696 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Muhammad al-Da'mah: "Jordan's Contacts With Iraq Coincided With Acceptance of Oil-for-Food Formula"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian sources have revealed that high-level Jordanian-Iraqi contacts took place recently with a view to easing the severity of the tension in relations between the two countries. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: King Husayn of Jordan sent an envoy to Iraq during the recent round of talks between Iraq and the United Nations on the agreement concerning the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 986 to allow Iraq to export quantities of oil so as to import food and medicines.

The sources added that the Jordanian envoy, whom the sources did not name but he is close to King Husayn, advised the Iraqi leadership to accept the oil-for-food formula, pointing out that in addition to alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering from the blockade, this formula could also be a step toward the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraqi since 1990. The sources said that this was the first direct contact between Jordan and Iraq at such a level since bilateral relations deteriorated considerably after General Husayn Kamil's return to Baghdad, where he was murdered with his father and brother.

Jordan is hoping that Iraq will import a lot of the medicines and food it needs from the Jordanian market because of its proximity and the low transportation costs. It is also hoping that Iraq's imports from Europe will come through al-'Aqabah port, since that would reflect positively on the land and maritime transportation sector in Jordan and the fleet of the Jordanian-Iraqi company for land transportation.

Jordan: Amman TV on King Husayn's U.S. Visit, Cairo Summit

JN1206202496 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report over video by Dima Hamarinah in Washington; from the "News at Ten" program — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the past few months, the Middle East peace process has been on halt, but with the results of recent Israeli elections the fear now is not a further stall, but a possible derailment of the whole peace process. Concerned Arab leaders and U.S. sponsors, however, warned against prejudgment of Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu and the make-up of his government to avoid a premature destructive domino effect based on pre-assumed [as heard] results.

His Majesty's visit to the U.S. and his talks with U.S. officials, including President Bill Clinton, comes amid such calls and in between several mini-summits and the first large-scale Arab summit in six years:

[Begin Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir recording] We see eye to eye with the U.S. on this completely. We do not feel that there is any reason why we should be rolled back. There have been many achievements since Madrid, and our objective from the summit is to build on these achievements and use them as grounds for further achievements in the future. There is no reason or grounds for us to roll the wheel back or to freeze whatever has been achieved until now. [end recording]

A destructive domino effect scenario might happen since several hardline Likud leaders have already called on Netanyahu to repudiate earlier peace agreements. Netanyahu himself, in his election campaign, promised never to discuss the issue of Jerusalem, said no to a Palestinian state, and no to withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

In light of such remarks, some Arab countries have called for slowing down or rolling back with the peace process. While Jordan, along with several Arab countries and the United States, acknowledged such an action-reaction scenario might happen, they warn against it happening prematurely with no plausible reasons yet.

In his three-day talks with U.S. officials, His Majesty has, and is expected to stress the importance of patience, the need to work on bridging the gaps between positions, and highlighting and strengthening tangible progress already made on the ground.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] It is very important for the U.S. to keep and increase its political and economic support for Jordan, as we are building a model that is unique in the area and a model that we feel can be emulated by everybody in the area. [end recording]

Following his talks with U.S. officials, His Majesty will leave Washington on Friday [14 June] and head back to the region in preparation for the Arab summit. Next week, all eyes will turn to the summit in Cairo, where Arab leaders will work on bridging inter-Arab gaps created since the Gulf war and on consolidating a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis the peace process and Netanyahu's victory.

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A lot depends on the make-up of the new Israeli Government and the new policies it plans to take. But until then, Arab leaders say they don't want to prejudge anything or predict any future Arab position.

Jordan: King Husayn—Peace Process To Continue on All Tracks

JN1306091696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn said that peace in the Middle East has become an established reality. He said that the results of the Israel elections cannot be a cause for going back on the peace process.

In a meeting with a delegation from the Arab-American Society at his residence in Washington, His Majesty King Husayn said: We have received signals that call for optimism, that indicate what was agreed upon is irreversible, and that the upcoming Israeli Government will abide by the agreements concluded by the concerned parties.

His majesty added: It is the right of the future generations to enjoy peace and security, of which the peoples of the region where have been deprived for decades. They should be given the opportunity to live in peace, enjoy their natural rights, make the progress they seek, improve their living conditions, and build a peace they can live with.

His majesty the king noted that the Israelis have the same worries and fears as the Arabs and that peace is sure to remove these fears and doubts. He added: Thanks to peace, we have restored our land, water, and rights. We supported our brethren Palestinians efforts to obtain their rights when we provided them with an umbrella at the Madrid conference. We are still supporting them and will continue to do so until they obtain all their legitimate rights on their national soil.

His majesty the king asserted that the peace process will continue on all tracks, despite the obstacles that impede it at certain points.

His Majesty King Husayn will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton tomorrow. The meeting has extraordinary importance due to several circumstances, foremost of which is that this meeting is the first for the U.S. President with a Middle East leader since the political developments and changes in the region, including the Israeli elections and the rise of the Likud Party and its leader Netanyahu to power — a development that drew various reactions and sparked fears about the future of the peace process.

Jordan: King Husayn-President Clinton Meeting Previewed

JN1306103696 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jun 96 p 21

[Editorial: "Husayn-Clinton Meeting and Advancing the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The expected meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton today is the culmination of the talks his majesty held with various U.S. officials over the past few days. The king's talks focused on the mechanism of advancing the peace process following the political shift in Israel. This shift was represented in the replacement of the prime minister and the advent of Binyamin Netanyahu, whose electoral campaign emphasized his unwillingness to offer concessions on a host of thorny issues, the foremost of which are Jerusalem, the settlements, and withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Over the course of his tour and his meetings, the king's statements were characterized with optimism, despite the changes that have taken place. This optimism is based on the belief that peace is a strategic option for the region's people and leaders. Nothing can stall the expansion of the peace process to encompass all the parties and end the state of undeclared war between Israel and some Arab parties. Understandably, peace is a concern of many parties inside and outside the region. Peace has become an international and regional must. The attainment of peace is not contingent on a certain person or government in the region.

The fact that the Jordanian and American positions are identical indicates that the optimism and determination to press ahead on the road of peace are not based on mere wishes. They are instead based on information received by both sides from the new Israeli political leadership's asserting its commitment to the agreements that have been concluded and its desire to effect new agreements with other parties. There has been some change in the priorities and in the negotiating methods. However, these changes should be handled without fear that the entire process will collapse.

It is important to note that his majesty's talks with the U.S. President come on the eve of the expanded Arab summit that will assert Arab adherence to peace as a method and objective. His majesty will convey this message to the U.S. President. The results of these talks and Washington's position will be examined at the Arab summit in order to adopt a position in line with recent developments.

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Jordan: King's Meetings With U.S. Officials in Washington Reported

JN1306064596 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0400 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king will meet with President Bill Clinton in Washington today for the first meeting between an Arab leader and the U.S. President since the election of Israel's Likud Party leader Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister. The summit talks are of exceptional importance because they come in the wake of the latest developments in the Middle East, which sparked fears regarding the future of the peace process in the region.

The information minister, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, said Jordan was carrying several messages to the United States. These, he said, included the strategic choice for peace for all the countries of the Middle East. He pointed out that there was no way to slow down the wheel of the peace process, but rather press forward to give it momentum so as to achieve more of what was initiated at the Madrid conference. The information minister added that Jordan would underline the need for continued U.S. support of Jordan's model for peace in the region, which he said had succeeded in demonstrating the necessity of comprehensive peace which is also based on economic integration and cooperation among regional states.

On Jordan's participation in the forthcoming Arab summit in Cairo, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the kingdom would stress the continuation of the peace process in the region. He added building on peace would be an appropriate common ground for resuming peace on the other tracks, saying there was no time for delay or reversing the Middle East peace process.

His majesty the king has met at his residence in Washington the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor. The talks last night dealt with cooperation and trade and investment between the two countries. Mr. Kantor stressed that the U.S. Administration intended to familiarize the American private sector with the lucrative investment opportunities in Jordan and called for launching joint investment projects between the concerned sectors in the United States and Jordan. The meeting was attended by the prime minister; his majesty's adviser on national security; and the ministers of water and irrigation, justice, information; and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

His majesty the king has met with majority leader Newt Gingrich in the U.S. House of Representatives. During a Congress meeting, Mr. Gingrich paid tribute to his majesty's leading role in attaining peace and stability in the Middle East. He also expressed his appreciation of Jordan's big achievement in the fields of democracy and human rights. Gingrich also underlined the U.S. legislative authority's continued support for Jordan in various fields so that the kingdom could continue its pivotal role in the region.

Earlier his majesty met with chairman and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Discussions centered on the future of the Middle East peace process after the hard-line right-wing Likud Party came to power in Israel. The two sides affirmed the need for continuing the peace process and did not prejudge the results of the Israeli elections. His majesty discussed with the committee the upcoming Arab summit in Cairo and both voiced the hope that the summit would bring about resolutions which advance the peace process.

The king met at his residence in Washington with a delegation of businessmen representing the largest ten companies in the United States which start to set up investment projects in Jordan. [sentence as heard] The businessmen voiced their appreciation of his majesty's role in achieving peace and stability in the Middle East, which paved the way to the flow of the foreign capital into the region so that its peoples could lead more prosperous lives.

His Majesty King Husayn has met a team of the American Jewish community who valued high the king's efforts in making peace in the Middle East and his keenness to support the peace process. They expressed their full backing to his majesty's call for the continuation of the regional peace march until it realizes its ultimate goals on all tracks.

The king underlined the necessity and urgency to continue the peace process until the aspired-for objective of lasting and comprehensive peace finally materialize. He added such peace would enable the peoples of the region to build a better future for the coming generations.

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Lebanon: Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for PRC

NC1206192896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his wife Nazik left Beirut this evening on an official three-day visit to the PRC. He will hold talks with senior PRC officials on the political situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Four agreements will be signed during the visit. Also accompanying al-Hariri on this visit is an official delegation comprised of ministers Fu'ad Sinyurah, Yasin Jabir, Robert Ghanim, and Hisham al-Shsha'ar, the cabinet secretary general.

Lebanon: Hizballah's Nasrallah on Israel, Iran Ties

MM0706145796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 96 p 17

[Interview with Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, by Tariq Tarshishi in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tarshishi] How do you view the future situation in the region and the settlement process in the light of the results of the Israeli general election which the Likud party has won?

[Nasrallah] The present climate is one of wait and see. So far, we note that people have been divided between pessimism and caution. Even the Americans are evidently using cautious words. Perhaps the only one who departed from the syndrome of watchfulness and caution to that of optimism was King Husayn, and this is only natural due to his old friendship with the Likud party and the ruling currents in the Israeli entity.

As to my own views, it is perfectly natural for me to take a position of watchfulness and general pessimism due to my knowledge of the Likud and particularly if Netanyahu decides to carry out his declared election manifesto.

Undoubtedly, those who gave him their votes did so on the basis of this election manifesto. For not all those who voted for Netanyahu were members of the Likud, as we know that the number of Likud seats is smaller than the number of Labor Party seats. There is no doubt also that the extreme right and the religious Jewish parties also voted for Netanyahu and not for Shim'on Peres, and they did so on the basis of Netanyahu's manifesto.

When matters go as far as the establishment of new settlements and touch upon the proposed horizons for the final stage and the start of complications with regard to the question of Hebron, that will mean that the Palestinian track has begun to freeze and retract. We are aware that if it begins to freeze and retract, the Palestinian track will just begin to collapse and fall, because the Palestinian situation cannot tolerate anything of this sort.

As to the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, matters are very clear. Should Netanyahu insist on refusing the return of all the Syrian and Lebanese territories, then there will be no progress at all on these two tracks. This, in the final analysis, will mean the freezing of the settlement operation or its only marking time for many years to come, if not retracting.

In view of all that we have read from the statements of Netanyahu, the Likud, or the parties which will naturally join the Likud in the formation of a coalition government, I do not believe that the settlement process will advance quickly or even make any progress at all. Indeed, the stronger climates are those which talk of freezing or caution. Of course, I do not mean that the region will collapse or that the drums of war have begun to beat. I think things are exaggerated.

[Tarshishi] Lebanese political and popular circles fear a new Israeli military operation. Has Netanyahu's victory changed or altered any of the options and priorities of the resistance?

[Nasrallah] As far as the resistance is concerned, we said even months before the elections that we do not care what happens with the Israeli elections. For to us, the Likud and the Labor Party are one and the same. Thus the resistance will continue and so will its work as long as the land remains under occupation. The resistance will continue its fighting and its war against the occupation forces. As we had promised to retaliate for the massacre of civilians by killing the soldiers who committed that massacre, we carried out the Marj 'Uyun operation a few days ago. Anyway, the resistance's work and performance will continue under all conditions within the limits it sets for itself. I do not believe that Netanyahu's advent will change anything in the number or type or performance of the resistance in the occupied strip.

[Tarshishi] A major violation of the "April entente" has taken place as a result of the recent air raid on Bala'bek. This violation prompted official pessimism and concern about the fate of the supervisory committee which is provided for in the entente. What do you say in this regard?

[Nasrallah] In any case, the supervisory committee is only one detail of the situation in the region that is awaiting the formation of Netanyahu's government. The Americans have declared that they will seriously work for that committee to be formed and start its meetings following the formation of the Israeli enemy's government.

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One cannot prejudge matters. But in any case, let us agree with the Lebanese Government in its pessimism about the supervisory committee. It was evident from the very first days that the Israelis were procrastinating pending the election results and so did not want to commit themselves to anything specific. A number of obstacles and problems were raised in regard to the supervisory committee and this was in the days of the Labor government which had approved the April entente. So what could the situation be under a government of Likud which, to say the least, criticized the April entente and considered it detrimental to Israeli security and Israeli interests. I believe that what the position will be is not clear so far.

[Tarshishi] Noticeable Iranian political and diplomatic activity has been going on in Lebanon particularly since the Israeli aggression. It seems this activity meets with little approval from the president of the Republic and some echelons of the Lebanese Government. Do you think unhealthy conditions now prevail in Lebanese-Iranian relations at the official level?

[Nasrallah] The atmosphere that came out into the open recently through some officials about relations with Iran has come as a surprise. When Iranian delegations came to Lebanon and met with Lebanese officials, the prevailing climate then was very normal. The Iranian delegations came to offer help through the government. Some details concerning this were, I believe, published, but they did not meet with the required response. I believe that if a country wants to help the Lebanese and ease the sufferings of the Lebanese people too, it will seek any means whatsoever to alleviate their sufferings, when it does not find the necessary response or the required positive attitude from the state.

Anyway, the talk about the aid and the visits requires in fact some clarification. We would like to clarify what has happened. For example, it was stated that Iranian officials came and met with parties, groups, and personalities from outside the official framework.... But all of us recall how Robert Pelletreau (U.S. Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs) used to come to Lebanon and stay three or four days or even a week sometimes holding secret and public meetings with parties, personalities, ordinary people, and journalists and exploring the views of many people without us hearing any criticism of the American action or its departure from the norms of diplomacy.

If the brothers and officials in the state so wish, we are prepared to present to them, from the newspapers and not from any private secret information, detailed archives about the meetings of foreign diplomats with many Lebanese parties and personalities outside the sphere of diplomacy, concerning which we have never heard at any time that these meetings had caused any problem.

Even with regard to the question of aid...we can provide them here too with information derived from the press about ambassadors of foreign countries giving aid to Lebanese societies and institutions directly and outside the sphere of the Lebanese Government, regarding which we have heard of no problem.

I believe that the question is not one of visits and aid. Since the officials possess such a high decree of frankness and clarity, we hope that they will say frankly what the problem is. Because, if as I have said, the problem was one of visits, then this does not concern the Iranians. The same applies if the problem was one of aid, as this too does not concern the Iranians. If some Iranian societies provide aid to some Lebanese societies, and there are many societies in the world that provide aid to Lebanese societies, then why keep all the other dossiers closed and only open this [Iranian] dossier? This, in fact, is the question we would like to hear an official answer to. Then one can form an opinion.

[Tarshishi] Large sections of the Lebanese say that the Iranian role creates problems for Lebanon and has been used by Israel as a pretext for aggression against Lebanon. How do you reply to this?

[Nasrallah] This is old hat. First, following the aggression, Lebanon became in need of someone to stand by it. Let us count how many French ministers visited Lebanon after the war and how many Iranian ministers visited Lebanon and how many French emissaries and how many Iranian emissaries came...but nobody minded the visits of the French delegations.

Lebanon needs all those who can stand by it, be it Iran, France, or any Arab or foreign country. Furthermore, Iran's true objective is to bolster Lebanon as government as well as people. There is something which the Lebanese officials have failed to read and which has no precedence: the cable sent to the resistance strugglers and to the secretary general of Hizballah by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Grand Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Khamene'i, who is an Islamic religious point of reference and one of the Shiite points of reference. For though it is not customary for grand Shiite points of reference to praise any government or state, and no such thing has ever happened in history, the Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i decided to send a cable to the Lebanese Government and Lebanese people praising them for the unified stand they took against the April aggression. Though the head of the hierarchy in Iran, who enjoys the highest respect among many Shiites and Muslims in the world, has acted in such a positive manner, the

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Lebanese state has not responded at all to his positive attitude.

Iran is not trying to bypass the Lebanese state. But, in all frankness, the Lebanese state does not act positively either. Whether the Lebanese state likes it or not, just as Syria enjoys great respect in Lebanon, just as France enjoys particular respect in Lebanon, just as any of the other Arab countries enjoy respect in Lebanon, Iran too enjoys great respect in Lebanon. This great respect nobody can confiscate or prohibit.

Iran wants nothing from Lebanon. This statement should actually be made by the Iranians themselves. But I have repeatedly heard it myself from the Iranians. They are paying the price for their support to the Lebanese people, the Lebanese Government, the resistance at the political level, the economic level, and the security level as well. I wish also to reassure the officials of the Lebanese state that we do not want to enter into an altercation with them and that the decisions of the resistance in Lebanon are Lebanese decisions and nobody in the world can impose on the resistance any positive or negative decision that conflicts with its convictions, plans, cause, and the objectives it struggles to achieve.

I say to the Lebanese state and the officials, particularly in the new phase through which the region is passing now, that they need friends, supporters, and helpers. Iran is the best such support and helper and it commands great influence at regional and area level. I call upon them first to deliver themselves from this state of worry and secondly to show the required positiveness in their dealing with a friend which extends to them friendship on such a level, as there is no need for all the negativeness and all the instigation we have been hearing.

[Tarshishi] The Lebanese Shiite community includes a larger number of major religious points of reference and prominent political leaderships. But it is noted that relations amongst them are marred by differences and conflicts, which give the impression that each of these references and leaderships has its own religious or political program. What is the reason, in your opinion, for this unhealthy condition among the Shiites, and do you think it possible for these points of reference and leaderships to coordinate and integrate with each other in their handling of the issues and in formulating a cohesive political stand for Shiites within the framework of the general realities in Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] This is the way the world is. All people are like that. It is a regrettable situation, but it exists. During my participation in the Shiite Islamic Council and its executive and legislative bodies, we tried over the past years to bring the various views closer to each other and to create some sort of cooperation, integration, and active coordination among the various Shiite sides represented on the council. But so far, the framework of the council has failed to achieve this, for one reason or another. Naturally, I do not want to delve into any details in this regard. All I can say, however, is that we have made serious attempts in this regard.

At present, we cannot say that there are four or five schools of opinion at the Shiite level, but rather two types of schools. The first type could be said to be that of the Islamic state of affairs, of the Hizballah, of Fadlallah and of the group of ulema and Islamists who are living in that condition. The second type is that of the brothers in the Amal Movement, of His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and some brother members of the Supreme Shiite Council. This is because the first school of opinions is close and so is the second. So what we must do now is to exert greater effort to bring the two schools closer to each other. But the problem is that the question in some cases and to some people is more profound than a problem of the political stance. We hope to be able to tackle this, with God's help, in future.

[Tarshishi] Is this state of affairs influenced by the varying Shiite relations between one point of reference or one Shiite side and Iran?

[Nasrallah] Not at all. The relations between any side and Iran have nothing to do with the nature of the relations among the sides.

[Tarshishi] Why are relations between you and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in this state of flux?

[Nasrallah] This state of flux in our relations with the head of government can be very quickly explained. When Prime Minister al-Hariri came to Lebanon and formed his first government, we took a position of open, flagrant, and clear opposition. In taking this position we were honest with ourselves, unlike the others, who were considered to be in the opposition but used to grant confidence to a government which they did not trust. With regard to the past government also, our general line was one of opposition.

The opposition used to intensify and then ease up. That is true. But at no time did Hizballah ever deviate from this course. All that used to happen was that the opposition used to intensify or cool down, because of the regional situation and the Israeli threats and aggression. But this matter has nothing to do with the way we are dealing with Prime Minister al-Hariri. We used to work for the dissipation of any internal problem in the interest of facing up to any aggression that threatens the

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homeland as a whole and the region. Thus the intensity of the opposition used to subside occasionally due to conditions and priorities of a regional character that demand unity in the face of Israeli aggression in all its forms.

A period of boycott existed at one time over matters pertaining to the massacre of 13 September 1993, but prior to that we had no boycott, indeed we had contacts and meetings.

Following the statement issued by the Higher Relief Committee concerning the massacre and the attitudes taken by the president of the Republic and some ministers, contacts were resumed. But these contacts did not turn us into supporters nor did they move us out of the ranks of the opposition. All that we can say is that these contacts succeeded in eliminating the estrangement but they did not move us from a position of opposition to a position of support.

Some Lebanese analysts or some Lebanese political personalities, who change positions quickly, thought that we did move.

At no time did we ever leave the ranks of opposition to this government, its plan, and its performance. We have constantly expressed this position. The intensity of our position used to vary according to the varying conditions and the priorities according to which Hizballah usually operates. During the confrontation of the "Grapes of Wrath" war, we called on the Lebanese to unify. It would have been unnatural for us not to act like this. So we did. But the safeguarding of the climate of national unity does not mean that opposition has turned into support. That is a fact which we expressed during the night of the cease-fire and the martyrs' week. I said then that national unity should not be turned into a sword hanging over the necks of the opposition and popular forces in Lebanon, nor should it become a means for confiscating freedoms, opinions, and convictions.

When one criticizes any economic project, he is accused of undermining national unity. The Lebanese should be free to act as they deem fit in internal issues. But they should take a unified and coordinated stand in the face of the Israeli enemy.

During the past period, we felt greatly offended because of statements that were made and acts performed. But we kept quiet. What we said on the 10th of Muharram [27 May] was not intended to start a war against anyone or to fabricate a problem. But we felt that nobody tried to intervene from far or near, none of those who care for national unity did intervene, to say that such statements harm national unity. We saw the campaign continue. So we uttered our cry to tell others to watch their words out of our care for national unity, because it would not be right to ask me to show cohesion with you when you keep cursing me day and night.

In the final analysis, those who participated in the march are people who have their emotions and who have their dignity. It was for this reason, as you have noticed, that once a climate arose for settling the issue within the circles of Hizballah and Prime Minister al-Hariri, we were very responsive.

[Tarshishi] Have contacts taken place in this regard between you and Prime Minister al-Hariri?

[Nasrallah] Of course. Some friends intervened on the grounds that this state of affairs is not in anyone's interest. We said this was sound and we support it. I believe that was the end of the matter. The altercation came to an end. Then we noted that the story of Iran and the "shops" etc. was opened. We do not want to enter into altercations over this matter and shall wait to see the picture become clearer before we decide how to respond.

[Tarshishi] What is your current position in regard to the elections and the proposed idea for the division of electoral constituencies?

[Nasrallah] With regard to the electoral law, what is being said is inconsistent with our position. We have called for the adoption of a single criterion. The electoral law about which they are talking is based on three criteria: one, the district, for the province of Jabal Lubnan; two, the province, for the provinces of al-Biqa', the North, and Beirut; and three, two provinces combined in one electoral constituency in the province of the South.

Administratively, there are six provinces in Lebanon. So if the province is to be adopted as the basis, then there are six provinces. Indeed, failure to adopt one criterion is very wrong. A law which fails to adopt a unified criterion is a flawed and unjust law such as the 1992 law. We are afraid that this law might prompt some sections of the Lebanese people to boycott the elections.

For example, if we are not convinced by the electoral law, we will oppose it. But matters will not go to the extent of our boycotting the elections.... We hope there will be an electoral law through which the Lebanese can express their identity and achieve a true representation. But this electoral law which is based on three criteria will not enable the state, in my opinion, to continue easily to defend the objectivity of the electoral law.

We are preparing ourselves for the elections like the other bodies. So all advance talk about the existence of complex lists and about refraining is mere false

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assumptions. We can say that all such talk is premature. For in the final analysis, nobody can impose any particular option on anyone.

I say that at this moment, all options are open in terms of the make-up of the lists as well as the options. Nothing has yet been decided.... So far, these matters have not been discussed seriously by any of the quarters concerned with the formulation of the lists, because all are awaiting the publication of the electoral law. Once the law is published, contacts will begin and the picture will become clearer in terms of participation in combined lists or in several lists.

In the light of what is put forward, we will determine our position and make our decision. Naturally, if there are some who want to ignore the size of Hizballah, whose size is very clearly seen in the street, in the resistance and among the people [sentence incomplete as published]. We are not asking for ourselves anything that is not naturally our right.

It is our natural right, and it is the right of every person, quarter, or current in the country to determine its own natural size.... It is as though they want Hizballah not to care, while the others seek to win parliamentary seats and principal state posts and have the power to veto the decisions of the state authority. That would not be natural and is only a waste of time. The leadership of Hizballah has been entrusted with this natural right, which in fact represents the will and wishes of the bases of Hizballah, who offered such great sacrifices, and consequently it is Hizballah's right to seek its natural right to representation in parliament as well as in the other cadres of Lebanese political life.

[Tarshishi] Are you nominated as a candidate for the parliamentary elections?

[Nasrallah] Of course not.

[Tarshishi] Is the formation of an electoral alliance between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in the south on the cards?

[Nasrallah] In matters of alliances, everything is possible.

[Tarshishi] What do you say about the talk that elections might not take place?

[Nasrallah] Just because Netanyahu came to power, it does not mean that no elections would be held. But should the Likud government seek to escalate the situation militarily and create tension in the climate and if it appears that the situation in the region will collapse and retract, and new hard and difficult security and political conditions have developed, then the option of extending the life of the current parliament could become a strong option.

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Syria: 'Text' of Statement on Talks With EU

JN1206151296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jun 96

["Text" of joint statement issued by the Syrian-European Cooperation Council chaired by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Luxembourg on 11 June—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian-European Cooperation Council held its second meeting at the ministerial level in Luxembourg on 11 June 1996 chaired by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', head of the Syrian delegation to the current session.

The EU delegation was headed by Lamberto Dini, Italian foreign minister [as heard] and head of the Council of Europe. The European Commission's delegation was headed by (Manuel Marine), vice chairman of the Commission. (Mueller Burk) represented the European Investment Bank.

The meeting enabled Syria and the European Community to review their relations within the framework of the cooperation agreement, and it gave them a chance to discuss political issues of joint interest.

The discussions shed light on the importance of the existing cooperation between the European Community and Syria and highlighted the two sides' resolve to bolster their future cooperation.

Syria and the EU welcomed the fact that their political relations have developed and expanded since the first meeting of the Syrian-European Cooperation Council. The two sides stressed that they have a common interest in security, stability, and prosperity on the banks of the Mediterranean. In this spirit, they stressed their political commitment to the European-Mediterranean partnership, which will help find comprehensive and concerted solutions to the various challenges in the region.

The EU and Syria stressed their eagerness to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principles of the peace process, which was launched in Madrid in 1991, including the land-for-peace principle and everything this principle includes.

The EU expresses its commitment to the Middle East peace process and its readiness to continue to fulfill its full political and economic role in supporting this process alongside the two cosponsors of the peace conference.

The two sides agreed on the need to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion. They will try to remove the obstacles standing in its way. They believe that peace and stability require economic and social growth in the entire region, and they will encourage this growth.

The two sides stressed the great importance they attach to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process. In this context, the EU welcomed Syria's strategic option to achieve peace.

The Syrian side also said that this option is contingent on Israel's adherence to a comprehensive peace and complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. The EU encourages more than ever the efforts of the parties concerned to resume negotiations as soon as possible. The EU is aware of the difficult and crucial issues the negotiations with Israel should address. The EU will hold close consultations with the parties and the cosponsors as the negotiations move forward. It will seek to find the most appropriate way to contribute to the negotiations and the implementation of the peace agreements. The EU also intends to support and actively contribute to the industrial and economic development in Syria and other countries engaged in the peace process.

As for the multilateral track, the EU hopes that Syria and Lebanon will soon be able to participate with other parties in the region in the multilateral working groups and the steering committee. The Syrian side insists that this participation requires the accomplishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The two sides welcomed the progress Syria made in terms of modernizing its economy and effecting gradual reforms for this purpose. Within this context, the EU hopes that Syria will steadily continue the process of developing the economy, noting the role of the private, public, and financial sectors and the need to protect investment. These are important factors for courting foreign investments.

Concerning bilateral cooperation, the two sides were pleased to note that the resumption of financial assistance in 1994 enabled cooperation to enter a serious phase. In this regard, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the possibility of embarking on significant cooperation projects and programs, which are now being implemented. These projects include various sectors, like modernizing the electricity sector and lending support to the economic sector through modernizing the banking sector and establishing the Syrian-European Business Center.

The funds that have been allocated under the protocols were fully honored. Concerning the European Investment Bank, the two sides expressed hope that a quick so-

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lution will be worked out regarding Syria's dues. Thus, the European Investment Bank will be authorized soon to resume the process of lending, taking into consideration the EU's encouragement of Syria to continue its search for a solution to pay its dues.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the execution of the Mediterranean assistance program. Syria and the European Commission held detailed discussions about delineating the goals and broadlines of cooperation for the period 1996-1998.

The two parties showed greater interest in the European pledges to launch joint projects with Syrian partners. The two sides also welcomed Syria's role in the regional activities that are being held under the European-Mediterranean partnership. Syria will take advantage of the measures that will be taken within this framework.

The European side valued Syria's role at the regional level. The two sides underscored the importance of the European-Mediterranean partnership, which began at the Barcelona conference. This partnership will enable Syria to contribute actively to the priorities plan of action.

The EU intends to make every effort to ensure that Syria's full contribution in the European-Mediterranean partnership will continue and be promoted.

Regarding future relations, the two sides expressed their desire to advance their relations so that they can respond fully to the framework that emerged from the Barcelona process, represented by the establishment of a joint area of prosperity around the Mediterranean.

In this context, the EU noted with satisfaction Syria's stand on initiating exploratory talks to move forward toward negotiations on the Syrian-European partnership agreement as soon as possible.

Syria: Al-Shar', EU's Dini Hold News Conference in Luxembourg

JN1206104696 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Lamberto Dini, Italian foreign minister and the current EU president; and Manuel Morin, vice president of the European Commission; held a joint news conference to review the results of the meetings of the Syrian-European Cooperation Council.

All three expressed a sincere desire to promote and bolster relations between Syria and the EU. The Italian foreign minister and EU president voiced the EU's commitment to the peace process and said it will continue to fulfill its political and economic role in supporting the peace process, along with the peace process cosponsors, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

He said the EU will do this to restore confidence in the peace process. He stressed that this process must succeed, regardless of the obstacles placed in its path. He added: We know that peace and stability require economic and social development in the region. Dini affirmed the significance of the primary role Syria plays in the region, as noted in the April understanding to stop the fighting in Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed his satisfaction with the improvement of Syrian-EU cooperation. He said Syrian-EU partnership on the one hand, and the Arab-European partnership on the other, will serve security and stability in both the Middle East and Europe.

Answering a question on Syria's position on terrorism, al-Shar' said: Terrorism is an evil that should be fought and eliminated through joint international efforts. He added: We must make it clear that Syria has always made a distinction between this kind of terrorism, which claims the lives of innocent people and which should be condemned, and the legitimate struggle of nations to liberate their occupied lands. Al-Shar' regretted the fact that there has been some confusion in recent years as a result of some states' refusal to work seriously to differentiate between terrorism and legitimate struggle against foreign occupation.

He added: If we look at what is going on in the Middle East, particularly with respect to the Israeli occupation, we can say that any resistance cannot possibly be classified as terrorism, unless the other party wants to distort the facts. The real solution to this problem is political, represented by Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Once that happens, acts of violence will not be justified.

No one in the entire world, including the United States, can accuse Syria of practicing terrorism, al-Shar' said. The United States placed Syria on the list of states that sponsor terrorism on the pretext that there are Palestinians in Syria. We must ask: Who is responsible for displacing the Palestinians? Is it right to place a state like Syria — which hosted and embraced Palestinians who were driven from their homeland — on the terrorism list? To be fair, Syria and the Arab states that have hosted the Palestinians should be thanked, instead of being accused of terrorism.

The minister asserted that the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was terrorism in the full sense of the word. The Qana massacre in southern Lebanon, in which more than

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100 women and children were killed, was a horrible terrorist act that will be engraved in the minds of millions of people. It is this kind of terrorism that should be condemned.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Luxembourg's foreign minister, Jacques Poos, at the EU headquarters in Luxembourg this morning. They discussed the future of the peace process in light of recent regional developments. Poos reiterated his country's stand on the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and the land-for-peace principle. The two sides also discussed relations between Syria and Luxembourg and ways to promote them.

Syria: Results of Syrian-European Council Meetings Praised

JN1306065396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the results of the second session of the Syrian-European Cooperation Council. It asserts that political ties between Syria and the EU have been promoted and expanded since the first session.

AL-THAWRAH says: Developments confirm the importance Syria attaches to strong relations with the EU states. They also confirm the credibility of Syria's ongoing efforts to consolidate these relations, as well as its hope for a more effective European role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper adds that Europe has started to realize the importance of playing an effective, independent political role and that, almost instantly, this has yielded positive results in terms of enhancing European-Arab relations and expanding cooperation. The paper points to this role, which emerged during the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon. It also points to European participation, and particularly French participation, in the efforts to reach a cease-fire in Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH says: This entitles Europe to larger role in the overall peace process in the region by pushing this process on the bases of the Madrid conference. This was pointed out in the final statement of the second session of the Syrian-European Cooperation Council, which welcomed Syria's strategic option to achieve peace.

Syria: Ba'th Party's al-Ahmar Stresses Adherence to Peace Process

JN1306071296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Hilarion Capucci, Jerusalem's bishop-in-exile. They discussed developments in the region and the future of the peace process. Comrade al-Ahmar was told about the activities of the Italian heart surgery team in Syria.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed Syria's adherence to the peace process and its ongoing efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. This peace must restore occupied territories and rights to the Arabs and lead to Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. Comrade al-Ahmar said Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, is working with the rest of the Arab countries to improve the Arab situation and achieve effective Arab solidarity. Syria is also seeking to formulate a united Arab stand that supports the peace process and confronts Israeli policies. By pursuing these policies, Israel is trying to weasel out of the requirements of the peace process and impose its own concept of peace.

Bishop Capucci expressed appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab stand, which calls for preserving Arab land and rights, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria: 'Strong' U.S. Position Urged To End Double Standard

JN1306084596 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 11 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial by Fu'ad Mardud: "The Crossroads"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] How vigorously Israel is going to pursue the next phase of the Middle East peace process won't be difficult to predict. Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu has already spelled out his government's policy towards negotiations, no talk about the holy city of Jerusalem, no Palestinian state, no withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and at the same time no limits on Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Peace and reconciliation are the peace and reconciliation among the Israelis themselves.

In such an atmosphere, who can say that the policy of "wait and see" is a wise policy for the Arabs? The open call by U.S. President Bill Clinton for Arab governments not to react immediately to Netanyahu's statements and

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"wait and see" came at a crucial time when preparations to convene the first Arab summit since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The coming summit is to draw—as it is supposed—a new, realistic Arab strategy for peace making in the light of the new developments in the Middle East. Arab leaders are fully convinced that the latest statements by Mr. Netanyahu which stems up from the hostile background of the Likud bloc will detonate the region and escalate tension and instability in the area. The developments of the past two or three days indicate that the Arabs are strongly determined not to be taken for fools this time, though there still are some birds signing out of the flock, and not drop their guard.

That is on the Arab side, while on the Israelis', the crucial question of whether the Israelis have bought a logically balanced political package or whether they invited a political disaster for their future continues haunting many of them inside and outside of Israel. The difficulties are great and cannot be brushed aside through hardening the positions in the negotiations, or by over-jumping the new realities in the world of today. Israel is not a remote island.

While for the United States, the election of Mr. Netanyahu in Israel poses a great dilemma of supporting an ally who doesn't know where to go or what to do. It is a moral question that will face any administration in Washington because it is not easy to support some one who basically rejects your principles and ideas.

The American interest is to promote an Arab-Israeli deal that eases the tension in the region, and at the end of the day maintains the national interests of American. To master this, a strong American position is needed, and perhaps the election year can offer the best opportunity to display a strong leadership in the national interests of the American people through ending the double-standard perspective of the American policy.

Syria: Editorials View 'High Hopes' for Upcoming Cairo Summit

JN1306093996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses the importance of the upcoming Cairo summit because it is the first of its kind in more than five years and also because it will attract the Arabs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf. The summit is expected to mark the beginning of a comprehensive Arab awakening to the threats posed to the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH urges the summit participants to formulate an integrated strategy on how to deal with the threats that loom over the region. It also urges the participants to build a unified and cohesive Arab front through effective Arab solidarity that will place the greater pan-Arab interest over any regional or transient interest.

The paper says: The Arab nation needs solidarity, closure of its ranks, and unification of its position in the current phase more than before. The nation is also facing threats now more than before.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel no longer conceals its hostility to peace, and it now publicly rejects any commitment to the terms and requirements of peace. Moreover, Israel openly insists on adhering to the occupation of the Arab territories and to proceeding with schemes of expansion and hegemony at the expense of the Arabs and their land and rights.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: High hopes are pinned on the Cairo summit to end the negative situation being experienced by the Arab nation and to find firm bases to reunite the Arabs, unify their efforts, and provide everything that will allow them to defend their just cause and confront anyone who tries to disavow their rights or jeopardize their security and existence.

Syria: AL-BA'TH Reacts To Call 'For Not Closing the Door'

JN1206173096 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 11 Jun 96 p 1

[Editorial: "The Cairo Summit: Face to Face Before History"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the Damascus tripartite summit dispelled the clouds that have been covering the Arab sky for some time now, and the final statement of this summit restored great hope to the masses of our nation, who are now waiting for the convening of the Cairo summit. However, it is still premature to jump to conclusions or assess the results of the expanded Arab summit.

However, developments in the region and the Arab collapse and fragmentation during previous stages, not just the Likud's assumption of power in Israel, necessitate reconsideration of calculations and require that Arabs adopt a stand to fortify their existence against the dangers facing it.

If we have to say something now we can say that a positive atmosphere is emerging in the Arab world now that preparations are under way for the Cairo summit. This is accompanied by a state of confusion in Israel and in other countries, which sensed an attempt to

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reactivate Arab solidarity and to close ranks to confront the Likud's rejection of the bases of peace and the principles of the Madrid conference.

Some tried to throw the ball in the Arab court when they called for not closing the door before the peace process. This call, however, is inappropriate and should be directed to those who are really trying to close the door.

Netanyahu has not yet shown any intention about the peace process other than his adoption of the peace-for-peace principle, thereby torpedoing the Madrid formula, which is based on the land-for-peace principle.

If the Damascus statement stressed the principle of a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option, the Cairo summit will not call for anything short of this demand, which holds Israel responsible for its rejection of a just and comprehensive peace.

The ball is in the Likud's court now, and Likud should announce a clear agreement to achieve a just peace in this region or announce its rejection of the peace process and then accept the consequences of this rejection. Until then, all eyes will be on the Arab leaders, who will meet in Egypt to stand face to face before history whose judgment will certainly be fair.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Radio—Pakistan Opposes Afghan Unity

LD1206194796 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Pakistani Interior Minister] Nasrullah Babar does not want the establishment of an Islamic government and the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan, says a press statement issued by Jamaat-i Islami Pakistani.

The statement said: We wanted to speak to Taleban about its participation in peace talks. So we contacted Mawlawi Haider Shah, a Taleban representative in Quetta, and the Taleban leaders welcomed our suggestion. However, the Taleban delayed the meeting under pressure from Babar.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad has said that the People's Party [of Pakistan] did not want the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. [Word indistinct] and foreign ministries of Pakistan are trying to push Afghanistan closer to India.

The Jamaat-i Islami statement adds: Our delegation has made three visits to Afghanistan. But when our efforts bore fruit in that country, Pakistan's authorities prevented our delegation from going to Afghanistan under pressure from their American masters. This is to help the American plan of breaking up Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Government Allocates $10 Million Subsidy for Food for Kabul

LD1206191696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan Government has allocated $10 million to buy food supplies for the people of Kabul.

According to reports reaching Radio Message of Freedom, the food will be bought abroad with the allocated funds and then be sold at lower prices to the residents of Kabul. The aim is to prevent further price increases in Kabul.

The report adds that it is not yet known where the food supplies will be bought and how they will be transported to Kabul.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Radio Reports Isolated Violence During Election

BK1206133896 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [passage indistinct] BSS reports that voting at two centers in the Comilla-8 parliamentary constituency — the Government Primary School and Kaliapara Primary School in the Comilla City area — was suspended when ballot papers were snatched. Our Perojpur correspondent, quoting District Election Control Room sources, reported that voting at two centers —the Perojpur High School and Bhandaria Primary School — was suspended when miscreants snatched the ballot papers. Our Khulna correspondent reports that polling at the Bakergachi Primary School in the Daulatpur subdistrict and the [name indistinct] School of the Uzirpur subdistrict was suspended for [words indistinct].

In the capital, hundreds of voters crowded at the polling centers to cast their votes. They participated in the voting with great enthusiasm and in a cheerful mood. President Biswas and Begum Biswas cast their votes this morning at the Bangabhaban Primary School. Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Begum Rahman cast their votes at the [name indistinct] polling center. Speaking to newsmen at the polling center, the chief adviser expressed satisfaction over voter participation. He thanked the political parties for their cooperation [words indistinct] in the casting of votes.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena cast his vote today at the Bahadurpur Government Primary School at the [name indistinct] subdistrict of Rajshahi District. Speaking later to a representative of Radio Bangladesh, the chief election commissioner said that the Election Commission has taken all [words indistinct] for holding the elections in a free, fair, and impartial atmosphere.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia cast her vote this morning at the Adamjee Cantonment College polling center. Bangladesh Awami League President Sheikh Hasina cast her vote this morning at the Dhaka City College polling center in the Dhanmondi residential area. Professor Golam Azam, amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, cast his vote this morning at the Viqarunnessa Noon School polling center.

In the port city of Chittagong, voters exercised their right to vote with great interest and enthusiasm. Our Chittagong correspondent, who visited several polling centers, reported that voters came to the polling centers in the morning and cast their votes after standing in

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lines. Our Khulna correspondent reports that voting was held peacefully in the city.

Reports received from Barisal, Jhalakati, and Jhinaidaha say that voting in all the centers of these districts was held in an exciting atmosphere. Our Rajshahi correspondent says that polling was held smoothly in the district. In all of the 10 districts of Rajshahi, voters exercised their right to vote in [words indistinct]. Our Rangpur correspondent reports that the voters participated at the polls with great enthusiasm. [passage indistinct] Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports that the voting was held [words indistinct]. Voting was also held at all Dahagram and Angorpota centers. Voting was held at 10 booths in the three polling centers of these enclaves. [words indistinct] people of these two enclaves cast their votes for the first time in a free and fair atmosphere.

Our Sylhet correspondent says that polling was held in all the centers of this district amidst great enthusiasm. A large number of voters were seen in all the Sylhet city centers and in the rural areas. Our Moulvi Bazar correspondent reports that voters cast their votes to elect four members of parliament from this district. Voting was held peacefully at the Rajshahi District's 236 polling centers. Our correspondents report from Mymensingh, Tangail, and Gazipur that the people of these districts stood in line at the polling centers and cast their votes in a disciplined manner.

The Election Commission has made elaborate arrangements for the speedy collection of the election results and their announcement from the secretariat of the commission in Dhaka. Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will broadcast the unofficial results of the elections directly from their booths set up at the Election Commission. Radio Bangladesh began broadcasting a continuous program at 0600 this morning that will last for [figure indistinct] hours.

Several local and foreign observer groups are monitoring the election process. A large number of foreign journalists have also arrived in Dhaka to collect news relating to the elections.

Bangladesh: 'Massive Participation' in Parliamentary Elections Reported

BK1206165196 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary elections were held peacefully throughout the country today, barring some isolated incidents. Voting began at 0800 and continued until 1600 without a break. The vote count began immediately after the voting ended. Initial reports say that there was massive participation by voters in today's elections. Female voters also waited in the lines for a long time to cast their votes.

Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman, who visited different polling centers, expressed satisfaction over the peaceful atmosphere. Our correspondents in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Rangpur have reported that, despite the hot weather, people gathered at the polling centers in large numbers to cast their votes.

The unofficial results received from the Election Commission are as follows:

In the Tangail-1 constituency, the results at eight out of a total of 92 polling centers are available. In this constituency, Awami League [AL] candidate [name indistinct] received 6,810 votes, while Abdus Salam Talukdar of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] received 4,796 votes.

In the Tangail-3 constituency, the results of eight out of a total of 71 polling centers are available. In this constituency, Lutfur Rahman Khan of the BNP received 7,038 votes, while Shahjahan of AL received 5,875 votes.

In the Dhaka-12 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 115 polling centers are available. Dewan Mohammad Alauddin of the BNP received 4,621 votes, while Mohammad Ashrafuddin Khan Chunnu of the AL received 3,113 votes. Feroz Kabir of the Jatiya Party [JP] received 2,075 votes.

In the Narayanganj-3 constituency, the results of five out of a total of 141 polling centers are available. Abul Hasnat of the AL received 13,897 votes, while Professor Mohammad Rezaul Karim of the BNP received 2,491 votes.

In the Gopalganj-2 constituency, the results of 25 out of a total of 135 polling centers are available. Sheikh Fazlul Karim Salim of the AL received 25,597 votes, while Fazlur Rahman Jehangir of the received 1,398 votes.

In the Gopalganj-3 constituency, the results of 21 out of a total of 78 polling centers are available. Sheikh Hasina of the AL received 20,777 votes, while Abdul Mannan of Jamaat-i-Islami received 1,412 votes.

In the Dhaka-1 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 55 polling centers are available. In this constituency, Nazmul Huda of BNP received 6,830 votes, while Mohammad Hasan Ali of the AL received 3,646 votes.

In [name indistinct]-5 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 69 polling centers are available. In this constituency, Dr. Kazi Abu Yusuf of the AL received

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7,019 votes, while Lutfur Rahman Khan of JP received 2,077 votes.

In the Tangail-1 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 82 polling centers are available. Kader Siddiqui of the AL received 8,371 votes, while Mohammad Kamruzzaman Khan of the BNP received 5,674 votes.

In the (?Jessore)-2 constituency, the results of nine out of a total of [word indistinct] polling centers are available. In this constituency, [name indistinct] of the AL received 7,235 votes, while Zahid Ali Chowdhury of the BNP received 5,250 votes.

In the Dhaka-13 constituency, the results of 20 out of a total of (?100) polling centers are available. Rezaur Rahman Khan of the BNP received 15,559 votes, while Khan Mohammad Iqbal of the AL received 5,432 votes.

In the Dinajpur-1 constituency, the results of eight out of a total of 96 polling centers are available. Abdur Rob Chowdhury of the AL received 5,202 votes, while Monoranjan Seal of the JP received 2,350 votes.

In the Dinajpur-2 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 82 polling centers are available. Prakash Chandra Ray of the AL received 5,102 votes, while A.H.M. [name indistinct] received 3,369 votes.

In the Dinajpur-4 constituency, the results of six out of a total of 77 polling centers are available. Abdul Halim of the BNP received 3,769 votes, while Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Monu of the AL received 3,136 votes.

In the Thakurgaon-3 constituency, the results of eight out of a total of 97 polling centers are available. Mohammad Ikramul Haq of the JP received 4,863 votes, while Emdadul Haq of the AL received 4,663 votes.

In the Lalmonirhat-1 constituency, the results of four out of a total of 90 polling centers are available. Jainul Abedin Sarkar of the JP received 3,203 votes, while Mohammad Motharuddin of the AL received 1,419 votes.

In the Lalmonirhat-2 constituency, the results of nine out of a total of 90 polling centers are available. Mohammad Mizanur Rahman of the JP received 6,313 votes, while Moniruzzaman of the AL received 4,103 votes.

In the Brahmanbaria-6 constituency, the results of seven out of (?68) polling centers are available. Dr. Rowshan Ali of the BNP received 5,164 votes, while his nearest rival Tajul Islam Chowdhury of the AL received 4,793 votes.

In the Bandarban-300 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 117 polling centers are available. Bir Bahadur of the AL received 3,465 votes, while his nearest rival Fazlul Haq of the BNP received 1,573 votes.

In the Feni-1 constituency, the results of five out of a total of 75 polling centers are available. Begum Khaleda Zia of the BNP received 3,247 votes, while her nearest rival Professor M. Waziullah of the AL received 963 votes.

In the Feni-3 constituency, the results of five out of a total of 14 polling centers are available. Mohammad Musa of the BNP received 3,991 votes, while his nearest rival Jainal Abedin Hazari of the AL received 2,238 votes.

In the Cox's Bazar-2 constituency, the results of 12 out of 120 polling centers are available. Mohammad Khalequzzaman of the BNP has won 5,569 votes, while his nearest rival Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury of the AL received 2,683 votes.

In the Lakshimpur-1 constituency, the results of eight out of a total of 54 polling centers are available. Ziaul Haq Zia of the BNP received 5,961 votes, while his nearest rival Shafiqul Islam of the AL received 3,931 votes.

In the Moulvi Bazar-3 constituency, the results of 12 out of a total of 136 polling centers are available. Saifur Rahman of the BNP received 6,548 votes, while his nearest rival Azizur Rahman of the AL received 4,714 votes.

In the Jhalakati-2 constituency, the results of 10 polling centers are available. Kazi Aziz Ferdous of the BNP received 4,468 votes, while his nearest rival Mohammad Syed Anwar Hossain of the AL received 3,522 votes.

In the Jessore-1 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 47 polling centers are available. Mohammad Shahidur Rahman of the AL received 9,609 votes, while his nearest rival Mohammad Ali Sadeq received 6,999 votes.

In the Rajshahi-5 constituency, the results of eight out of a total of 18 polling centers are available. Dr. Mohammad Alauddin of the BNP received 10,711 votes, while retired Brigadier Anisur Rahman of the AL received 7,192 votes.

In the Jaypurhat-2 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 84 polling centers are available. Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman of the BNP received 10,525 votes, while Mir Jalalur Rahman of the AL received 6,263 votes.

In the Bogra-2 constituency, the results of 14 out of a total of 69 polling centers are available. A.K.M. Hafizur Rahman of the BNP received 14,414 votes,

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while Mohammad Tariqul Islam of the JP received 4,332 votes.

In the Jaypurhat-1 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of (?59) polling centers are available. Abdul Alim of the BNP received 6,548 votes, while Mohammad Abbas Ali Mandal received 3,571 votes.

In the Natore-2 constituency, the results of 10 out of a total of 94 constituencies are available. Ruhul Quddus Talukdar of the BNP received 5,453 votes, while Mohammad Ahad Ali Sarkar received 4,369 votes.

It has been reported that voting at 50 polling centers has been suspended due to some violent incidents. In Comilla, voting has been suspended at 31 centers due to undesirable incidents. Voting has been suspended in three centers in Narsinghdi, two centers in Faridpur, two centers in Perojpur, and one center in Barisal.

Bangladesh: Awami League Wins 132 Seats, BNP 103

BK1306081596 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0800 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Unofficial results of 270 parliamentary seats for which the elections were held yesterday [12 June] have been received so far. Out of them, Awami League has secured 132 seats, Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] 103, Jatiya Party 30, Jamaat-i-Islami two, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Rab one, Islami Oikya Jote one, and independent candidate one. [passage omitted]

India

India: Radio Reports Government Victory in Confidence Debate

BK1206163596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Deve Gowda ministry has won the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. The motion moved yesterday was carried by a voice vote after a marathon debate of over 12 hours.

Replying to the debate, the prime minister said his government will formulate a new program which will address the basic needs of the people, including drinking water, communications, family education, health care, and housing in a time-bound manner. He assured the house that money will not be a problem in implementing these key schemes. Mr. Deve Gowda said that a meeting of the chief ministers of all the states will be convened soon to discuss the matter.

During his one-hour reply, Mr. Deve Gowda touched upon several issues, including the urea [fertilizer] scam, reservation for women and other weaker sections, falling standards of democratic institutions, and Kashmir. On the urea scandal, he said that CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] investigations are on in the case and it will be unfair to draw conclusions before the probe is over. Categorically denying that any Congress leader has spoken to him on the issue, the prime minister said that the CBI has taken up the issue with the Interpol and other international investigating agencies with a view to recover the money.

Responding to the opposition leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's concern on the need to take a firm stand on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Mr. Gowda said that he will consult senior leaders of all parties on such important issues. He assured that the nation's security will not be compromised.

Expressing concern over the falling standards in public life, the prime minister said that all political parties have to sit together and find a solution. On reservation, Mr. Deve Gowda said that he is ready to discuss with other political parties on giving reservations to women in government jobs, assemblies, and Parliament. He said in his own state, reservation is given to all the weaker sections, including Muslims, and it can serve as a model at the center also.

The prime minister also assured early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, taking part in the debate, the opposition leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, said several parties aligned against the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] because of its growing strength. He reiterated his party's view that the present government does not have the mandate of the people. He said his party has been able to initiate a discussion on secularism. Calling for getting back the money involved in the urea scandal, Mr. Vajpayee described it as a bigger scandal than Bofors and Hawala [illegal money transfer case] put together. Referring to the ongoing conference on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in Geneva, he said the government will have to take a firm decision on this issue soon. His allegations that an Indian delegate at the conference has closed the nuclear option was strongly contested by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and the former prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao.

Speaking on the motion, Mr. Narasimha Rao asserted that his party will not allow the fall of the Deve Gowda government under any circumstances. He said the Congress was clear from the very beginning that it will not support the BJP due to the basic differences between the two. He said in a secular democracy any party which goes to elections with a religious program does so against the spirit of the Constitution. Denying

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any secret understanding with Mr. Deve Gowda, he said the Congress decided to support him as there is much in common in the policies of the Congress and the United Front.

The finance minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, ruled out privatization of LIC [Life Insurance Corporation] or the General Insurance Corporation. Rebutting the BJP charges in this regard, Mr. Chidambaram said that the aim of the United Front is to restructure the insurance sector in the light of the experience of the banking sector where both public and private sector coexist.

Opposing the motion, Mrs. Reeta Verma, BJP, profusely quoted from a Patna High Court judgment on the [agriculture] fodder scam and said that the United Front government in which Janata Dal is a major constituent cannot provide a clean government.

Miss Mamata Banerjee, Congress, suggested that all sensitive issues should be settled through negotiations. She said the introduction of the lokpal [ombudsman] bill in parliament and election funding is essential for value based politics.

Mr. Surendra Singh of Haryana Vikas Party opposed the motion, while representatives of several other smaller parties, including Mr. N.D. Tiwari of the Congress-T, Mr. Banathwala of Muslim League, and Mr. G.G. Swell, independent, supported it.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the debate on the motion, the second within a fortnight, was marked by acrimony and sharp exchanges between the BJP and non-BJP benches. With the 12-day-old Deve Gowda government winning the confidence vote, the month-long political uncertainty after the polls has come to an end. The house later adjourned sine die. It is likely to meet again for the monsoon session to pass the vote on account and budget for the year.

India: EU Envoys' Visit Said Part of Delhi Openness Policy on Kashmir Issue

BK1306094996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ambassadors of five European Union countries arrived in Srinagar yesterday on a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Senior officials of the state government briefed them on the fast improving security scenario in the state and the increase in cooperation of the people in bringing back normalcy. The ambassadors also met the National Conference chief, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, and some Hurriyat [All Parties Hurriyat Conference] leaders. They will meet the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, today. Their visit is a part of the government's policy to have transparency on the situation in Kashmir. The ambassadors represent Italy, France, Netherlands, Ireland, and Spain in India.

India: FPM Vajpayee Interviewed on BJP Government

BK1006140596 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Jun 96 pp 57-58

[Interview with former Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee by N.K. Singh on 30 May; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Q. Has the early exit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government demoralised the cadres?

A. No. It has further steeled the resolve. We knew that the numbers were against us. It came as no surprise, and there is no question of demoralisation.

Q. You once said you wouldn't form the government unless you had about 220-225 seats. Why did you change your mind?

A. Some leaders felt we should not form the government. Yet, others felt we should not run away from responsibility.

Q. Everyone knew you did not have the majority. So what exactly were you banking on?

A. When the President invited me to form the government, the political situation was fluid. The regional parties were keeping their options open. We wanted to make an honest effort to form the government in the light of the people's mandate, with the help of regional parties on the basis of a common minimum programme.

Q. Were you surprised by the resolve shown by these parties to oust the BJP?

A. We never considered the Congress as a possible ally. Therefore their decision to support X or Y was not at all relevant to us. Yes, we didn't expect forces inimical to each other to come together. But their sole aim was to stop our continuance in office, even at the cost of their avowed principles.

Q. Would you agree that it was a suicidal gamble?

A. I am sure the prophets of doom will be proved wrong. The BJP has only emerged stronger.

Q. By forming the government without a clear majority, the BJP is said to have exposed its greed for power. There are charges that you tried to entice groups which had already decided to back Deve Gowda.

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A. Murasoli Maran of the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], an important leader in the new dispensation, has declared in Parliament that the BJP never indulged in suitcase politics. We were fully justified in seeking support from various regional parties on the basis of a common minimum programme. In fact, after election, some of them said they did not rule out backing a BJP government.

Q. Your brief stint of 13 days as a prime minister who could not win parliamentary legitimacy has sullied your image.

A. I don't believe so.

Q. For the sake of staying in office, you appeared ready to make compromises, like putting contentious issues such as the Ram temple in Ayodhya, abolition of Article 370 in Kashmir, and uniform civil code on the backburner.

A. There is no question of a compromise. The mandate was clearly against the Congress and we were trying to work out an alliance with other parties, despite many of them not sharing our perception on the Ram temple, Article 370 or a uniform civil code.

Q. You have described the United Front as an unprincipled coalition. Yet what similarities are there between the BJP and the Akalis?

A. The BJP and the Akalis have been allies in the past too. It is quite different from the kind of relationship the Congress has now established with the CPI (M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist], the DMK-TMC [Tamil Maanila Congress] and the TDP [Telugu Desam Party]. All these parties had promised to the people to put an end to Congress misrule. But now some of them are in office with the backing of that very party.

Q. Your government invited some amount of ridicule at the very outset. Sikander Bakht was sulking because he got a low-profile portfolio like urban development.

A. I think my government lasted for too brief a period for anyone to pass value judgements on my colleagues.

Q. You knew your government would not survive, yet you went ahead with some major decisions, like reconstitution of the Srikrishna Commission, revalidation of the counter-guarantee given to the Enron power project and so on.

A. Mine was not a caretaker government. All the same, we did not make any changes in the bureaucratic setup or take any major policy decisions. In spite of our reservations, we went ahead with polls in Jammu & Kashmir, in continuation of the decision taken by the previous government. We took decisions only on issues which could not wait. In the case of Srikrishna Commission, I had expressed my reservations when the Maharashtra Government scrapped it. Had we not revalidated the counter-guarantee given to the Dabhol Power Company, it would have gone for arbitration. I do not understand how my visiting the Golden Temple could be construed as a major policy decision. My declaration that economic reforms would continue was merely a reiteration of our known stand on the issue.

Q. You have always been an advocate of the politics of consensus. What kind of relationship do you visualise with your successors?

A. The same that a leader of opposition would have with a prime minister in any healthy democracy.

India: Commanders Discuss Modernization of Armed Forces

BK1106094896 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Modernization of the country's Armed forces is high on the agenda at the separate conferences of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force commanders. Our correspondent Rudranath Sanyal brings you the details on these conferences, which began in New Delhi today:

[Begin Sanyal recording] The computers documenting the five-day Army commanders conference are expected to receive a number of inputs on ways to modernize the Army effectively. The chief of the Army Staff, General Shankar Roy Choudhury, and heads of all the Army commands are presenting their views at the conference. While commending the Army for its role in recent time, specially in quelling insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, General Roy Choudhury felt that modernization program should now be high on the Army's list of priorities. Many analysts are of the view that the Army can actually reduce its expenditure in the long run if it starts acquiring state-of-the-art systems now.

At the naval commanders conference that also started in New Delhi today, the prospects of acquiring modern vessels for future were discussed. The chief of the Naval staff, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, visualize the future of the Indian Navy against budget allocations at current level. This conference will continue till Thursday [13 June].

The Indian Air Force on its part has already outlined its strategy to upgrade its equipment mainly on the basis of indigenous program with the help of the Defense Research and Development Organization. At the inaugural session of the Air Force commanders conference on Saturday [8 June], the chief of the Air

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Staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Sareen, had spoken about future plans to reduce cost by improving efficiency. Rudranath Sanyal, Doordarshan News, New Delhi. [end recording]

India: TV Reports Details of 133 Crore Rupees Urea Scandal

BK1106094296 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has questioned Mr. Prakash Chandra son of a former union minister, Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, in connection with the multicrore [one crore equals 10 million] urea scandal. The investigating agency has also summoned Mr. P.V. Prabhakar Rao son of the former prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, for interrogation in the same case.

[Begin recording][Unidentified correspondent][words indistinct] and fodder scam, it is the urea scam, which is grabbing the headlines. The Central Bureau of Investigation today questioned Prakash Chandra Yadav son of the former union minister, Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, in the 133 crore rupees scam. He was interrogated at the CBI headquarters for about three hours. Mr. Prabhakar Rao, son of former prime minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, who has been also named in the case, has already arrived in Delhi from Hyderabad. He is also likely to be interrogated tomorrow. Prime Minister Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda says that there will be no political vindictiveness and no one would be shielded in the scam. Left partners of the United Front, including the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], the CPI [Communist Party of India], and the Forward Bloc wants the matter to be probed. The CPI in a statement has said that it will press for an early conclusion of the case. The Forward Bloc general secretary, Mr. Chitta Basu, has said the corruption should be exposed. The CPI-M has already announced that it will press the United Front government to vigorously pursue the case. The former prime minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said those involved in the urea scam should be punished. Meanwhile, Mr. Prabakhar Rao has denied his involvement in the case.

[Prabakhar Rao] I want to make it very clear that I have nothing to do with this person. I have nothing to do with this scam and I have never met this person. [end recording]

Latest in the series of scandals, the urea scandal has left an amazing trial of how kickbacks were taken for an issue of contract to a Turkish company without even a bank guarantee. The contract was for supply of two lakh [one lakh equals 100,000 tons] of urea. Awarded in November last year, the Turkish company, Karsan Limited, is yet to fulfill the contract though the National Fertilizer Limited [NFL] paid the entire sum of 133 crore rupees in advance. Our correspondent, Madhunath, reports on the sequence of events leading to the multicrore scam:

[Begin recording] [Madhunath] The seeds of the scam were laid in the month of October last year when the tender for the supply of two lakh tons of urea was floated. A little known Hyderabad-based company, Saikrishna Impex, the Indian agent of the Turkish trading firm, Karsan, bid for the contract, who earlier had forfeited the bid money for failing to honor the contract with NFL for supplying 50,000 tons of urea. On the morning of 30th of October, Saikrishna's tender gets rejected but surprisingly gets accepted in the evening when Mr. Sambasiva Rao, the head of the Hyderabad-based firm meets NFL chairman. The 133-crore deal was struck in the first week of November last year. One of the conditions of the deal was that NFL will have to make 100 percent payment in advance to the Turkish company before the supply of urea, which is simply something unheard of in the international commercial dealings. The delivery date for the supply is fixed at 15th of February this year. In the last week of November, NFL releases 133 crores, 100 percent advance to the Turkish company's account in a Swiss bank, which is siphoned off the day it was transferred. The promised urea fails to arrive at the expiry date of contract and the Turkish company requests to extend the date till 30th of April. As the extended date also passes by without a grain of urea being supplied by the Karsan, the CBI takes over the case suo moto on 1st of May. The investigating agencies file an FIR [First Information Report] and arrests the former NLF chief, Mr. C.K. Ramakrishnan; its executive director, Mr. D.S. Kanwar; and Mr. Sambasiva Rao, the Karsan's agent in India. It is believed that Mr. Sambasiva Rao during interrogation by the CBI had made a statement of the alleged kickbacks of $4 million, which is about 13 crore rupees or 10 percent of the deal amount. Meanwhile, the CBI has sought the freezing of Swiss bank's account connected with urea import scam and also requested the Interpol to dig out details of a certain bank accounts in Dubayy and New York into which the alleged kickbacks for the deal were paid. [end recording]

India: CBI Orders Probe Into Multicrore Rupee Urea Scam

BK1106023796 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is reported to have requested the Swiss

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authorities to freeze the bank account in which the money for the urea deal between National Fertilizers Limited [NFL] and a Turkish company was deposited. CBI also reports, that the CBI has asked Interpol to carry out investigations in four countries regarding the multicrore urea scam. Under the deal entered into last year, the NFL agreed to prepay the entire amount of 133 crore rupees to the Turkish company for urea which has not yet been delivered.

During interrogation by the CBI, Mr. Sambasiva Rao, a prime accused in the 133-crore rupee scam, has named Mr. P.V. Prabhakar Rao, Mr. Sanjiva Rao, and Prakash Chandra Yadav as major beneficiaries of the deal. On the basis of this, the CBI has filed a remand application before the special court in Delhi. Mr. B. Sanjiva Rao, MP, in a statement in Hyderabad has denied that he received any money in the deal.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] today announced that it would press the United Front government to vigorously pursue the 133-crore rupee urea import case allegedly involving the sons of former prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and ex union minister, Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav. The CPI-M politburo member, Mr. Prakash Karat, said in New Delhi that the urea import case involves the swindling of public funds and there should be no letup in the investigations to track down the guilty.

India: CBI Files New Complaint in Payoff Scandal

BK1206110596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] has filed a fresh FIR [First Information Report] in the JMM [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha] payoff case as directed by the Delhi High Court. The names mentioned in the new FIR include the former prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; former union ministers Mr. V.C. Shukla, Mr. Ajit Singh, Captain Satish Sharma, and Mr. R.K. Dhawan; former Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal; industrialist Lalit Suri; and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MP Mr. Suraj Mandal.

The Delhi High Court had asked the CBI on the 24th of last month to file a fresh FIR on the basis of a complaint filed by the Rashtriya Mukti Morcha. The complainant had alleged that a criminal conspiracy was hatched by Mr. Narasimha Rao and others to prove the majority of the Congress government during the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha in July 1993. The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the Delhi High Court order asking the CBI to register a regular case and dismissed special leave petition filed by the premier investigation agency challenging the order.

The FIR lodged yesterday is the fifth in the JMM MP's payoff case. Earlier, the CBI had filed four FIRs in the case naming the then JMM MP's Mr. Suraj Mandal, Mr. Sibu Soren, Mr. Simon Marandi, and Mr. Shailender Mahato.

India: BJP 'Evidence' Links Defense Minister to Pakistan's ISI

BK1106081596 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 3 Jun 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 3 June. The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] is keen to disclose, at an appropriate time, evidence linking the central defense minister, Mulayam Singh Yadav, and Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter Service Intelligence [ISI].

Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav recently took charge as defense minister in the United Front government. The BJP has gathered evidence linking him with Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI. It is expected that the BJP will release its evidence against Mulayam Singh Yadav at an appropriate time.

Under the leadership of Vajpayee, the BJP was in power at the center for 13 days. It was then that the BJP leaders collected information linking Mulayam Singh Yadav with the ISI.

Janata Dal leader Ram Vilas Paswan charged that certain secret documents were copied during the tenure of the BJP. The home minister at the time, Murli Manohar Joshi, refuted this charge. These alleged copies are said to contain certain important information about Mulayam Singh Yadav.

In this connection, intelligence reports say that when Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, his brother ordered the Itawa police station to release an ISI agent to police custody.

They have also gathered evidence on another incident. Davood Ibrahim, who is accused of masterminding the series of bomb blasts in Bombay, and his associates purchased a number of landed properties and buildings. Landed Properties were acquired at the thickly populated Samanganj [place name as transliterated] locality in Kanpur. Moreover, a star hotel was also purchased in Lucknow. Intelligence reports say that the brokers, who assisted in the transactions of these properties, were close to Mulayam Singh Yadav. Intelligence reports also establish links between Davood Ibrahim and Mulayam Singh Yadav.

In addition to this, the intelligence bureau has also raised questions about links between Mulayam Singh

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Yadav and Atiq Ahmad, a former independent member of the legislative assembly. Atiq Ahmad was elected from Allahabad. It is to be noted that there have been several murder charges against him.

During its 13-day regime, the BJP has gathered evidence on many such reports. The BJP is waiting for the right moment to apprise the people that Mulayam Singh Yadav is against the Hindus. This should ensure that a considerable number of Hindu votes will go to the BJP.

Iran

Iran: Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Afghanistan

LD1106204996 Tehran IRNA in English 1944 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jun 11 (IRNA) — The Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan here on Tuesday [11 June] inked a memorandum of understanding to promote the bilateral cooperation in the trade, banking, technical, development, and agricultural sectors.

The memorandum was signed at the end of the first meeting of the Tehran-Kabul Joint Economic Commission. The signatories were Iran's Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh and Afghan Deputy Premier and Minister of Planning Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid.

According to the agreement the two countries will open a branch of Bank-e Saderat in Kabul.

The Iranian side has announced the country's readiness to accept 50 Afghan technicians for short training courses in Iran in the areas of fisheries, animal husbandry, forests and pasture development, and planning.

The Afghan official called on Iranian experts to train the Afghan manpower in the areas of international banking and trade. He also requested that Iran help his country overcome the existing problems by providing neccessary electricity. Foruzesh welcomed the proposal and announced Iran's readiness to rebuild the electricity network of Kabul.

The two sides also agreed on holding the next meeting of the two countries' joint commission in Kabul next year.

Iran: Velayati Discusses Afghan Problems With Visiting Minister

LD1106210896 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA — The Afghan Deputy Premier and Minister of Planning Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid discussed Tehran-Kabul relations and the latest political developments in his country with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting here on Tuesday. [11 June]

Javid, who is here at the head of a ranking delegation, praised Iranian endeavours to help restore peace, stability and solidarity to strife-torn Afghanistan.

He also expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the two countries' joint commission and the growing bilateral cooperation in the economic, political, cultural and educational sectors.

Javid called for further Iranian assistance to enable the Afghan government to reduce people's problems.

Velayati in reply, welcomed the recent political developments in Afghanistan and reiterated Iran's readiness to continue its peace efforts and assistance to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan in order to help reduce the problems of the oppressed Afghan people.

Underlining the need for an immediate end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan the Iranian foreign minister expressed hope that as soon as peace and stability was restored, the Afghan people would take part in the reconstruction process of their country.

Toward the end of the meeting Velayati announced satisfaction over the progress of the Tehran-Kabul joint commission.

He also assessed as "positive" Iran-Afghanistan economic cooperation within the framework of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), whose other members are Turkey, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

Iran: Velayati Says Relations With Russia Growing

LD1106190796 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today hailed the growing relations between the Islamic Republic and the Russian Federation.

Velayati, who was attending national day ceremonies at the Russian Embassy, congratulated the Russian Federation and Government, and noted the determination of both the countries to expand bilateral ties in all fields.

He said the forthcoming meeting of the joint economic commission as well as exchange of high ranking delegations and promotion of joint cooperation were an indication in this regard.

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Velayati stressed the importance of regional cooperation and took note of the joint peaceful efforts of Iran and Russia during Israel's 16-day state terrorism against Lebanon last April.

Russian Ambassador to Tehran, Sergey Tretyakov, said [words indistinct] considers the Islamic Republic as a strategic country and that long-term relations with Iran is among the priorities of Russian foreign policy.

He said the promotion of bilateral relations in recent years shows the willingness of Moscow to further strengthen ties with Tehran.

The Russian ambassador underscored what he called the "determined willingness" of the president, the government and the parliament of the Russian Federation to consolidate overall ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tretyakov described as "effective and fruitful" the recent visit of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister for Middle East and Arab Affairs Victor Posouvaluk to Tehran. Posouvaluk who visited Tehran June 7-9, has also been invited to attend a conference on Afghan issues in Tehran on July 5.

The Russian ambassador also underlined the importance of the role of Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and praised the regional cooperation of Iran and Russia.

Iran: Mubarak Trying To Make 'Arabs Bow Before Israel'

LD1206231296 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Jun 96 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed Article: "Mubarak is Bending Over Backwards for the Zionists."]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

[Egyptian President Husni] Mubarak's hasty visits speak of a new mission that international Zionism has asked the Cairo regime to undertake. Mubarak's assigned to prevent any doubt vis-a-vis the policies of the new Israeli Government, and to unite the Arab front for continuing the talks with the Zionist regime and giving further concessions to Tel Aviv.

This is not merely pessimistic guesswork but the essence of Mubarak's recent efforts based on an article by the official AL-AHRAM newspaper. AL-AHRAM, which is considered as the official mouthpiece of Mubarak's regime, points out that the recent meetings were held on Cairo's initiative and will be paving the way to end the Arab states' panic and doubt concerning the normalization of relations with Israel.

Thus, the Cairo regime has been given the mission, despite the coming to power of the warmongering Likud party, to yet again make the Arabs bow before Israel in order to hold negotiations and offer more concessions to the Zionists. That means that while in Tel Aviv there is talk of holding on to all the occupied territories, Mubarak is insisting the Damascus statement carry a humiliating message of compromise.

That is the real meaning of the alliance which the Cairo regime is advocating these days and has taken up the banner for creating unity among Arabs for bowing to Israel.

How can this great treachery by the Cairo regime be neutralized? How can this sickening mission be prevented? Fortunately the Cairo regime and its Camp David proclivities are well known. Everyone knows that even today Cairo is not prepared to take even one step against Israeli interests and for Palestinian interests.

The victory of the warmongering Likud faction has put the wind up the Arab reactionary front. That event demonstrated that at least for a period of four years the Zionist regime's policies will be more aggressive, atrocious and spiteful. Of course, Peres, with his last atrocity of the 16-day onslaught against Lebanon, proved that the Labor party does not fall short of the warmongering Likud faction in atrocity and slaughter, but the point is that Netanyahu has totally destroyed all the hopes of the Arab reactionary front and forced them to understand that after all that running around they are still at the start of the road. The only difference is that the illusory mirage of peace is no more and poor 'Arafat and the reactionary front — who hastily, gratuitously, and unilaterally offered Israel all its desired concessions — obligingly beseech Mubarak to think up a way out of this crisis and treacherous cul-de-sac.

Of course, Mubarak, with his own particular cleverness, is grinding his own ax: to restore the forgotten role that Egypt enjoyed during the al-Nasir era — which was the factor in Arab unity — even by safeguarding the chains of Arab captivity in the Zionist's talons. He procedes to once more make Arabs scrape and bow under subjugation to Israel.

Of course, to get brownie points from the Zionists, Mubarak has to adopt revolutionary stances and pretend to take strong positions against Israel. But everyone knows that he is being duplicitous and, as soon as conditions allow, he will suggest to the reactionary Arab front to show their good will by giving concessions to Israel and prove that they really seek peace with Israel. But until that day the Cairo regime will only try to prevent any strong decisions, likely to be against Israel and, as they term it, invite Arabs to show restraint.

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An essential point is that the door to Arab countries has been opened to Zionists and that is one of the biggest achievements of the Zionist regime in half a century. There are signs that Arab countries are trying to end such relations altogether, but according to the AL-AHRAM report, Mubarak is insists that there is no need to end relations with Israel. At the moment, the level of those relations must be merely lowered and their extent restricted.

That is the mission that the Zionists have created for Mubarak. They have even promised him a suitable share for his good services. It is precisely because of this that the nations and governments of the region must be vigilant and not be duped by the Cairo regime. Although Mubarak is an Arab, his obligations to the Zionists have turned him into an Israeli bellboy. Although Mubarak on the surface expresses concern for Arab unity, his worry is that the saga of Arab-Israeli compromise will end and that he will gain no further benefits.

Mubarak and those regimes which are party to agreements with Israel are bitterly feeling that the bridges have been destroyed behind them and they no longer have the confidence to return to the nations and the aspirations of Palestine. That is when, if there were any good will and sincerity among the leaders of the Cairo regime and other parties to agreements with Israel, this would have been the best opportunity for setting aside the ignominious compromise agreement and end the slavery at the hands of the Zionists. It is only then that nations will welcome with open arms those whom they have truly turned away from the Zionists.

Iran: Number of Active Onshore Oil Wells Rises to 762

LD1106084796 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., June 11, IRNA — The active oil wells of the onshore oil production management have increased from 558 to 762, the public relations office of the Ministry of Oil announced Monday. [10 June]

The onshore management's operational field covers over 80,000 sq. km, it said, adding development operations that were previously carried out by foreign experts are now being performed by Iranian experts.

Operating units for extracting the oil have increased from 44 to 56 and the number of productive oil reservoirs from 24 to 40.

Referring to the other active facilities of the onshore management, the office mentioned 21 units for increasing gas pressure and five gas injection stations.

Over 1,000 Iranian contractors are implementing oil and gas projects in the areas under the control of this division of the Oil Ministry.

The onshore management's scope of operations covers almost more than one-third of the country's total area, from southern Iran and the coasts of the Persian Gulf to the southwest, west and some parts in the central and eastern provinces, with more than 124 identified small as well as large gas and oil fields.

As to facilities related to the export of crude, there are four pumping stations with capacities ranging from 800,000 to 4.5 million barrels a day, two liquid gas refineries with capacities between 40,000 to 80,000 barrels a day, as well as loading facilities including tanks for storing oil and loading jetties in Kharq island that can accommodate the export of seven million barrels of oil a day.

More than 16,000 km of primary pipelines have been laid to transfer the oil extracted from the wells to the loading terminals.

Different installations have also been set up in various areas for developing new oil fields, separating gas from the oil, transferring the crude for exports and for taking oil to the domestic refineries. The production capacity of these units total 155,000 barrels a day, the ministry report said. It further disclosed that more than 1,200 million cubic feet of gas is being refined for domestic consumption.

Iran: Ministers Announce New Public Appointments

LD1106142896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the basis of separate decrees issued by Energy Minister Engineer Bizhan Namdar-Zangeneh, Mr. Mohammad Malaki, head of the board of directors and managing director of the Tavanir Company, has been appointed as deputy energy minister for electricity; and Mohammad 'Ali Sobhanallahi has been appointed as senior advisor to the minister, head of the Energy Ministry's Management Research and Training Institute and a substantive member of this institute's council for a period of four years. On the basis of separate decrees issued by Engineer Mirsalin, Islamic culture and guidance minister, Mr. Mohammad Reza Amini has been appointed as a member of the board of directors and the managing director of the Printing and Publications Organizations; and Messrs Seyyed Taqi Pur-Bakhsh and Davud 'Ali Abbaspur have been appointed as substantive members and Dr.

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Morteza Najafi as a substitute member of the board of directors of this organization. On the basis of a decree issued by Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, the industries minister, Mohsen Rowshan-Zamir has been appointed as director general in charge of Lorestan Province's industries and he has begun his work. On the basis of a decree issued by the vice president for executive affairs and the head of the president's office, Mr. Fereydun Bavand has been appointed as an advisor to the president's office. [passage omitted]

Iran: Survey Views Industry Problems, Foreign Currency Shortage

LD1106153896 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 June 96 p 4

[Economic note: "The Ever-Spinning Wheels"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In recent inspections of a number of the country's industries what seemed most regrettable is that, in spite of the country's severe need for various industrial products, many manufacturing plants — both in the private and public sectors — are operating below capacity. What is strange, in spite of extremely high prices, one of the main reasons for which is an insufficient supply of goods, is the wish to export sufficient nonoil goods to match and exceed oil exports.

For various reasons the industries are not able to meet the demand in the home and foreign markets. One reason is the lack of raw materials. The shortage of intermediary materials (materials used during production) is another reason. The shortage of spare parts is another factor.

All these factors stem from the shortage of foreign currency and the red tape involved in opening letters of credit for essential industrial imports. The shortage of foreign exchange is a fundamental problem. However, it is perfectly possible to allocate the same amount of foreign currency but to cut the red tape. The foreign exchange requirements of the industries can be provided in advance, on the basis of their needs and in accordance with the priorities of society, and the amount of foreign currency that can be allocated to each industry can be calculated at the beginning of each year. Naturally, the criteria should be very accurate and realistic. In setting priorities the highest factor should be given to industries which export a portion of their products, so that the foreign currency earned from their exports is placed at their own disposal.

The fact is that the foreign currency required by the industries creates jobs in the country, makes the wheels of industry turn continuously, and creates a considerable amount of added value. If we were far-sighted we would welcome the granting of foreign currency earned from the export of manufactured goods, particularly industrial products, to exporters. Of course, it is right for that foreign currency to be recorded somewhere and for the banking system and the government to be aware of the foreign exchange receipts and payments. However, that should not cause problems for exporters, particularly exporters of industrial products. If we accept the principle, red tape can be cut to a minimum possible. If the foreign exchange earned from industrial exports is placed at the disposal of these industries, they would constantly strive to export their products in order to provide for their needs. To create that incentive means giving our industries the opportunity to produce better goods at a lower cost and to dispatch them to export markets. Then, as industrial exports gradually grow, the above-mentioned allocation of foreign currency to the industries would put less pressure on the banking system. If the allocation is continued, the industries would undoubtedly, within a few years, be selling considerable amounts of foreign currency to the banking system. This is because if the present import-orientated approach of the country's industries turns into an export-oriented approach, they would have no alternative but to sell their foreign exchange surplus inside the country to provide their rial needs. Maybe in the first few years there would be some hardship due to a strong need by individual industries for foreign currency reserves for contingencies, which should be reduced to a minimum by taking appropriate measures, but it should not render us short-sighted and make us sacrifice our long-term interests. In time, and with the forbearance of the government and the banking system, the supply of, and the demand for foreign currency will balance gradually as in the case of other commodities. The prerequisite for that is giving priority to exports, particularly the export of industrial goods.

The problem of industry, which must play a fundamental role in the task of promoting nonoil exports and in fighting poverty in our economy, is not limited to foreign exchange issues and difficulties. One factor behind the low returns and high costs of the country's industrial products and the high costs of industrial repairs is the constant absenteeism experienced in the country's industries.

Machinery, which has been designed to run 24 hours a day, operates for one or two shifts per day and, because of the high cost of the fuel and electricity element in the price of the final product, even equipment which should be left on — so that, for example, their rollers do not become twisted or so that substances in them do not dry up — is switched off.

On Fridays and official holidays, factories close down altogether or run a minimum of their equipment at the

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lowest possible level. Putting this equipment back into operation after each break and shut down is one of the most expensive and time-consuming elements of industrial production. As a result of constantly being switched on and off, the equipment needs greater quantities of spare parts. Problems relating to workers and overtime, weak management, and shortages in the required material are among the reasons for the halting of the wheels of industry during the day or in the course of weekends and official holidays. In countries that are well acquainted with industry, by working extra shifts, workers do not allow the wheels of factories to stop turning for a single moment. One important factor behind this is the issue of the volume of supply and demand. Our industries are either state-owned and monopolies or private, with this latter group also often consisting of a limited number of units which form a kind of monopoly. In such circumstances, it is sometimes advantageous to limit production and to benefit from increasing prices (resulting from low supplies). If our industries act like incipient exports [as published], they would no longer need to behave in a monopolistic or pseudo-monopolistic way. These points must, therefore, be given attention in the new program for the promotion of nonoil exports. There are many other points that we could make and we will leave these for better opportunities in the future.

Iran: Building of City for Military Planned

96LA0227A Tehran SAFF in Persian
No. 189, Jan-Feb 96 pp 38-41

[Report on interview with Retired General Mohammad Hoseyn Piruznia of the central management of the joint cooperatives by SAFF; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Inasmuch as cooperatives have a special place in the culture and view of Islam, there was striking quantitative growth in the culture of cooperatives with the splendid triumph of the Islamic revolution, although the quality is not yet fully at the desired level and there is still a very long way to go.

A group of individuals who are living in like circumstances gather and form a cooperative and elect from among themselves a council to manage the cooperative. The boards of directors of cooperatives begin with the goal of meeting the rightful needs of their members, and then suddenly, in practice they come up against the government and private sectors. Article 44 of the Constitution establishes the economy on the basis of the government and private and cooperative sectors, with orderly and proper planning. The cooperative sector is therefore necessarily competing economically with the government and private sectors. If the cooperative sector cannot coordinate with the other two sectors in all financial and credit respects through proper management, it will inevitably face defeat or non-success. Here is where it is sometimes necessary for the cooperatives to come together and form central management, or, on a larger scale, to form cooperative unions and make use of one another's experiences to achieve the higher goals. Here, the cooperatives whose activities are aimed solely at alleviating the housing problems of their members are especially important. There is no doubt that even if we consider the share of the housing cooperatives to be small and insignificant in the production of housing and services, it is appropriate for us to give it a high position and hold it in esteem. We must not turn away from providing any kind of support or confirmation to reinforce the foundations of the aforementioned cooperatives and improve their quality.

Here, based on our mission as the press, we have undertaken to prepare a report in this area. We would like to take a small step to study the services of those in the cooperatives toward providing homes for the armed forces, those heroes of the imposed war who were enemy targets during the most critical days of the sacred defense, and to meet their minimum expectations — the provision of shelter for themselves and their families — and we would like to call upon the officials to provide support and protection in this critical matter.

Having said this, we have learned that a number of active personnel in the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, in an unprecedented step toward mutual assistance, coordination, and solidarity, has succeeded in carrying out a great movement to build the Ja'farieh model development with 5,000 housing units. After this was achieved, one of the largest population centers, the municipality of Shahriar, will be addressed next. This project is already going through the final stages of its first phase. With respect to this, in the interest of greater familiarity with the way cooperatives form, their motivation and the various stages and the design and construction of the Ja'farieh development, as well as in the transfer of experience to the rest of the organization, we interviewed Retired General Mohammad Hoseyn Piruznia of the central management of the joint cooperatives, and his remarks in this connection are presented below.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, with praise and greetings to His Holiness the Imam of the Age, may Almighty God hasten his joyful advent, and to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, may God have mercy upon him, to the exalted leader, and to the good spirits of the martyrs, especially the martyrs of the imposed war:

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The major part of the personnel problems have to do with obtaining suitable housing. Sometimes half the incomes of individuals are spent on rent. With the extensive studies we have begun in this regard, we studied the situation with the cooperatives and the reason for their lack of complete success solving the problem of personnel housing and the role of the other government and private organizations in the procurement of housing and the social position of the armed forces because of the nature of their employment.

With the emphasis the exalted leader and commander of the armed forces has given on making efforts to solve the housing problem in the armed forces and employment for retirees, we decided to take effective steps to implement the exalted leader's high views. In presenting the issue to the organization's personnel, three people were elected as the Housing Procurement Council.

The preliminary steps included the purchase of an orchard in Shahriar with an area of 360,000 square meters and 256 deeds, that were divided among 372 personnel in the Insurance Organization, the Ministry of Defense and the ministry's affiliated organizations. Due to the scandalous difference in the price between the time of purchase and when the deeds were distributed, the personnel in the other cooperatives and organizations, despite the fact that the Housing Procurement Council was a non-organizational body, wrote official letters and visited the council asking for wider measures and activities. In acting on this request, the council identified land to the west of Shahriar called Ja'farieh. In phase one of its development during recent years, a number of housing units were built for about 300 families, mostly Army Air Force Personnel. In phase two, consulting engineers from the office of the governor general of the Province of Tehran did extensive studies and designated a suitable site for housing Tehran's overflow population.

From the year 1361 to 1370 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1992], various cooperatives such as: 1. the Javid Housing Production Company (the Sabub Housing Procurement Council); 2. the Battery-Making Cooperative for forces affiliated with the Ministry of Defense; 3. the Mehrabad Air Force Housing District Cooperative; 4. the His Holiness Amir (peace be upon him) Air Force Brigade Cooperative; and 5. the Air Force Military Police Cooperative, were successful with phase one of the Ja'farieh Development in building new developments on a site of 1,680,000 square meters, to the south of the Ja'farieh development. However, in view of the failure to do the construction properly in phase one of the aforementioned development, the various cooperatives decided to build a single development in Sections 44 and 45, Yibark and Kerdamir. To begin, first the project's board of directors had to be organized, and this was done after numerous meetings.

There were two ways to carry out the development project: the first was to have the project built by contractors; the second was to choose a project executor and provide the necessary resources. After studies were done, the second method was used. Another conclusion was that it would be better to build one development, with the needed welfare resources and services, than to build five separate developments.

In the year 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] this management began negotiating with the relevant organizations such as the municipality and governor's office of Shahriar, and also with the Tehran governor general's office. Ultimately, since the land selected was outside the limits of the municipality of Shahriar, it was determined that the project's management should negotiate with the municipality of Tehran with respect to the making of decisions. Thus, after numerous meetings were held in the office of the governor general of Tehran, in Khordad 1373 [May 22 - June 21 1994] the office of the governor general announced its agreement to the construction of a development with 5,000 housing units and all the needed urban services.

Based on the agreement signed between the central management of the group of cooperatives working together on the Ja'farieh Project and the Office of the Deputy Governor General for Development, the management of the project agreed to build the aforementioned development in three phases: equipping the factory; constructing the commercial, service, and welfare units; and completing construction of the residential units. In turn, the office of the Tehran governor general agreed to present this management's requests to the Commission on Article 13 of Council of Ministers Guidelines 4940, and to obtain a construction permit for the building of this development. It is worth mentioning that a project goal was to build beautiful units at low prices.

How Ja'farieh Development Construction Procedure Was Chosen

Since almost all of the residential units built in the traditional way will be of low and non-standard quality because of the high cost of materials and needed goods at the desired quality, and finally because of the lack of proper implementation, and the financial losses and loss of life arising from this weakness were evident in recent unexpected disasters, especially the Manjil and Rudbar earthquakes, our experts did a scientific analysis and contacted countries with experience in this area. They decided to find a system that would conform with the nation's environmental and climactic conditions

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and the existing specialist resources, and to present a suitable model for front line housing production needs. They invited experts from several countries, including the Donnere company of France and several Danish companies, and carried out various measures.

The only way to work was to use the technology within the experience of these countries. This involved the use of systems with pre-fabricated lightweight concrete parts. Through the grace of the munificent God, the results of the studies revealed that years ago studies were made that came to the same conclusion, and a factory was imported into the country to produce pre-fabricated lightweight concrete parts to replace residential units destroyed in the Kerman earthquake. After this factory, which had been imported from England, was located and obtained, it was found that some of its sensitive parts were even still in the boxes and had never been used.

This factory was therefore purchased from the organization that owned it and was installed and put into operation through the use of domestic experts. Currently about 98 percent of the work of installing and putting into operation the aforementioned factory has been completed, and the remaining work will be finished soon, within the current year. When production begins at the factory, which will produce 9-10 residential units each eight-hour shift, the task of building the development under the executive program provided will begin. The production procedure will have the following benefits compared to other construction procedures:

1. reduced construction expenses and an economical procedure;
2. high-speed implementation;
3. long-lasting and durable construction, uniformity, and ability to withstand earthquakes and other problems;
4. no need for imported materials;
5. minimum need for specialists or skilled manpower;
6. unlimited flexibility in answering design considerations and adaptable to various architectural purposes;
7. complete construction flexibility and in the creation of various types of residential, urban, rural, industrial, educational, and medical structures, as well as others;
8. reduced weight, especially in consumer iron.

To install this factory, a site of 30,000 square meters was purchased adjoining the project site. After the needed light and heavy machinery were purchased, the factory was installed. This factory has two separate sections. One section makes prefabricated concrete parts such as walls, ceilings, blocks, curbs and other things. The other section prepares the concrete, and this concrete can also be sold separately.

In short, this project will ultimately be an investment for the members of this project. Through its revenues the expenses implementing the project can be recovered.

Development Resources, Services, and Welfare

Various centers were provided in designing the Ja'farieh development. These centers include residential units and installations for education, health care, services, and commerce, as follows: four kindergartens, eight elementary schools, two secondary schools, four rahnema'i schools, one municipal office, one post, telegraph, and telephone office, two police force units, one basketball and volleyball court, a swimming pool, six neighborhood commercial centers, two district commercial centers, four neighborhood mosques and one district mosque, four neighborhood libraries, one culture and art center, and also one health care and treatment center. In reality, the units mentioned are centers that received attention because of the importance they had in the development's preliminary planning.

In addition to these units, the construction of a hospital is planned to alleviate the health care problems of the residents. The hospital will have 400 beds and is to be built by the Free Islamic University. According to the agreement, the project management agrees both to provide the land for the hospital and to cooperate as needed in the hospital's construction. In return, the Free Islamic University has also agreed to take on the task of fully equipping the hospital. Likewise, based on the coordination that has been done, the members of the development will use the service resources at the hospital at a discounted rate or even at no charge. Currently the free university will prepare the resources and the necessary equipment, and it is also willing to begin the construction operations after the deed for the land is transferred.

The residential units in this development will be built in three different forms; 2,500 units will be in the form of villas on 250-and 300-meter plots with 100 and 120 square meters of foundation. Another form the residential units will take is that of apartments; 1,250 apartments on 300-meter plots with 120 meters of foundation in two single-unit levels will be built. Another 1,250 apartments will be built on 250-meter sites with 100 meters of foundation, in three single-unit levels.

The task of creating these residential units will be completed after the contract is signed with each and every member and up until the completion of the framework construction. Then the units can be assigned to the members. After the price is set, the next stage will be erecting the building, if desired by both parties.

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A new contract will be signed, and based on that, construction will continue until the completion of the finish work.

It is expected that if the factory begins producing within the next month and goes into use, then the development's construction will be completed no later than the middle of the year 1376 [23 September 1997]. The construction work is already under way and consists of the completion and startup of the factory, assigning the ownership deeds to the management for the purpose of dividing ownership of the project land, gathering and dividing the deeds based on the project's approved detail map, and of course transferring, gathering, and dividing the deeds is time-consuming and expensive. We hope that with the cooperation of the relevant authorities and with help of the board of directors, this task will be completed quickly.

Of course it should not go unsaid that a number of the deeds were given to the Air Force Military Police Housing Cooperative members in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984]. The Military Police Cooperative must collect these deeds from the aforementioned individuals and turn them over to the central management. After collecting and re-dividing the deeds, this management will assign the deeds in the names of the individuals. The members who have not turned in their deeds must take steps quickly to do so or they will not be allowed to use this management's resources.

The Ja'farieh Development Project director discussed the construction of developments without welfare resources and said that this is now one of the great problems for the residents on the outskirts of Tehran. He emphasized that such projects are unprincipled. He said: In developments built in this way, extensive welfare resources have not been provided. Unfortunately, in these instances the goal of the development builders was simply to build residential units and assign them in the least time possible.

There are even examples where developments have been assigned without asphalt on the streets and where the problem of health care and welfare resources still exists as the most important problem after years. Fortunately, however, in view of the careful attention that has been given to proper implementation of the Ja'farieh project from the beginning, the goal was to carry out a new and elegant project within the framework of the Ja'farieh development.

For this reason, based on the agreement that has been made with the office of the governor general, we wanted to choose an individual as mayor, in cooperation with the office of the governor general, who will supervise the development's careful construction and report any shortcomings to the project management and ask that they be alleviated.

Here our goal is to deliver the development with all the resources. For this reason, we intend for all urban services to be provided in the best way. Other resources to be provided for the development's residents include the allocation of 200 taxis for them. The above taxis, which are to be made available to the residents in collaboration with the Taxi Company, will provide good economic help for providing a daily life for a number of these dear ones, and in addition it could be a great help solving the transportation problem.

The central management of the consortium of cooperatives thanked the members of the cooperatives who are taking part in the Ja'farieh Project for the patience and persistence they have had since the year 1370. He said: God willing, we hope that by 1376 [21 March 1997 - 20 March 1998], if the plans are properly implemented, the task of transferring the residential units will also be carried out.

With respect to the cooperation by the region's officials, he also said: The unstinting cooperation by the respected governor general of Tehran, the deputy governor general for development, the chief of the governor general's technical office, and other official in the Tehran Governor General's Office deserve praise and thanks.

At the same time, in the numerous meetings we had before this with the officials in the office of the mayor of Shahriar, we found room for appropriate cooperation. In the same regard, in paying the fees for new construction in 1372 [21 March 1993 - 20 March 1994] we received a helpful response from the municipality in the form of positive and constructive cooperation. Now also, with Mr Vahidzadeh as the new mayor of Shahriar, we hope to expand the cooperation in this regard. In any case, we want the work on the project to take place with the cooperation and coordination of the officials in the region so that this project will become truly regional in an environment of reconstruction and development.

Iran: University Students Back Chancellor Against Hezbollah

LD1006194596 Tehran IRAN in Persian 6 Jun 96 p 16

[Critical Report: "What Else is New"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is reported that the Students' Islamic Association [SIA] at the medical faculty of Shahid Beheshti University, in a statement, has defended the chancellor of the university and the dean of the faculty against some allegations that they have

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mistreated the hezbollahi and basiji [members of Islamic mobilization force] staff and students. Previously the Islamic Union of Medical Students had accused the university authorities of mistreating the hezbollahi and basiji forces.

The SIA statement, in part, says: Contrary to these allegations, the chancellor has appointed a number of basiji forces to key positions in the university; and during their years of service in the university, the chancellor and the dean have never received even a single warning from Hezbollah.

The statement adds: How can we claim to be the defenders of principles and revolutionary stances, if we accuse committed officials of being unpious and nonbelievers?

Iran: Hezbollah To Set Up 'International Coordination Committee'

MM1206153396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Iranian Hezbollah Planning To Set Up International Organizational Structure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Hezbollah is planning to grant a political nature to its international structures and organizations, on the grounds that it is "the vanguard of the revolution" in the Islamic world.

Sources in Tehran say that the party, which is currently in full control of Iranian political affairs, is making contacts with the leaders of 16 Hezbollah branches to hold an international conference later this year with a view to setting up an international coordination committee for the movement.

This step is aimed at undermining the endeavors by some elements inside the ruling Iranian establishment to establish their own political parties. Besides, setting up a central coordination committee would enable Iran to unite its allies in the Islamic countries within one organizational framework, hence averting duality or disputes inside the fundamentalist camp.

Praising Hezbollah, 'Ali Khamene'i, the republic's guide, said that the voice of this group should reach "all continents and all countries."

In his "instructions" to Friday prayers imams in Iran, Khamene'i ordered them "to exert every effort to rally the masses around Hezbollah." Regular meetings of Hezbollah members have been held in provincial capitals following these instructions.

A number of hard-line mullahs, especially Ahmad Jannati, who is close to Khamene'i, have emerged as official spokesmen for Hezbollah.

Officially, Hezbollah has branches in nine countries, in addition to Iran: Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Lebanon.

There are other Hezbollah groups operating under various names, and these are active in other countries, including Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, and other African states.

There are also pro-Hezbollah pressure groups (lobbies) in Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada, and the United States. Hezbollah's branch in the United States runs a television station covering 14 states. It also publishes two dailies. The party has, since 1994, held yearly conferences for movement leaders from all over the world in Dallas, Texas.

Under the new proposed arrangements, all these organizations will carry Hezbollah's name and identity and rally under the international movement's banner, with its coordination center in Tehran.

As is known, Hezbollah was established in Iran under the circumstances of underground action. It became public after the mullahs seized power in 1979. But the late Khomeyni did not allow it to assume official capacity or to operate openly. And the government retained Hezbollah as an organization for the activists, who are experts in the struggle at ground level, in order to use them to hit adversaries whenever necessary. Hezbollah's branches abroad emerged as a result of the conflicting initiatives by hard-line mullahs in Tehran. Iranian authorities could not take full control of these branches. But Khamene'i intends to change this situation now.

Financial support for Hezbollah's branches abroad comes from various sources, including revolutionary establishments such as the Revolutionary Guard and the Islamic Guidance Ministry, in addition to donations from the Imam Fund, which is controlled by the republic's guide.

Iranian sources say that the numerous sources of financial support have led to "financial chaos, and indeed fraudulent acts in some isolated cases" in some Hezbollah branches abroad.

The plan to reorganize Hezbollah and to coordinate the activities of its branches is considered necessary in order to increase the effectiveness of the training of the party's activists. Several organizations are currently assuming the task of training Hezbollah supporters in more than 30 states. This situation sometimes leads to the establishment of rival armed groups within Hezbollah inside the one country.

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For example, in Afghanistan, there are two rival Hezbollah organizations. They engaged for months in a small-scale war in the Hazara area. But Iran sent its deputy foreign minister to reconcile them. Other rival Hezbollah groups fought one another in Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey.

In Azerbaijan, an armed group from Hezbollah attacked the Talish [as transliterated] area and nearly ruined the efforts made by Iran to conclude a major oil deal with the authorities in Baku.

In some states, as in Sudan, Iran feels that its financial support is going to hard-line groups that are not necessarily supportive of Iran's international aspirations. This is why Iran is currently trying to organize its Sudanese supporters in networks linked directly to the Hezbollah movement.

Iran: Khamene'i Praises Judicial System, Supreme Court

LD1006141196 Tehran IRNA in English 1334 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khameneii here on Monday [10 June] emphasized the important role healthy judicature plays in keeping public order and making people abide by law.

In a meeting with the head and the judges of the Supreme Court, the leader appreciated the continuous efforts of the Iranian judicial system to vindicate the rights of people and fight injustice.

The supreme leader, calling the Supreme Court judges as the [words indistinct] pillars of the judiciary, said the judicial system is a body comprising several integral components with its management functioning as its brain and its Supreme Court as its heart.

Therefore, the leader said, since the Supreme Court guarantees the health of the other parts of the judicial system, it should function correctly and precisely.

The revered ayatollah said the efficiency of the judicature should be promoted given the fact that it is governed by the Islamic laws, Shari'ah. The function of the judiciary is based on administering justice, vindicating the rights of people and fighting injustice, Ayatollah Khameneii said, adding that the Supreme Court judges and supervisors have been entrusted with such important tasks.

In view of the great progress made so far in this regard, the judiciary is expected to act as an organ that helps, in the strictest sense of the word, the oppressed and innocent people throughout the country, and inspires hope in the hearts of each and every Iranian individual regardless of their position, belief and religion, he said.

The leader of the Islamic revolution once again lauded the progress made by the Supreme Court in settling the impending cases and termed chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammdi Gilani as one of the prominent personalities of Iran enjoying honesty, spirituality and high academic education.

Before the leader's speech, the chief justice gave a report on the performance of the Supreme Court and on the lofty human and moral characteristics of the judges working for the Supreme Court.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto Gives Statement on Habitat Conference, Returns

BK1306065196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called for collective determination to overcome challenges facing the vital area of human existence.

In a statement, before leaving for home, after attending the conference on human settlements in Istanbul last evening, she said we must strive to make the world a better place for all through sustained economic and social development. Ms. Benazir Bhutto called for ensuring the provision of basic human rights, including descent shelter, to all. She said the conference has been an important step in that direction.

The prime minister said that while in Istanbul, she took advantage of the opportunity to exchange views with the Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, and the caretaker prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, on bilateral, regional and international issues. The situation in occupied Kashmir, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, Middle East, and Cyprus figured prominently during the talks. There was a unanimity of views between them on all the issues. The prime minister said we have agreed to continue our cooperation to promote international peace, security and stability.

The prime minister said her meetings with Turkish leaders reflected complete trust and mutual understanding which existed between the two countries. Radio Pakistan's special representative Mirza Saghir Baig reports from Istanbul that during meetings with the caretaker Turkish prime minister, the two leaders agreed in principle to set up a joint investment council for the promotion of shared ventures. She also met the former Turkish prime minister, Tansu Ciller, and discussed the whole range of regional and international issues. The prime minister has now returned to Islamabad.

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Pakistan: Minister Prefers Russian SU-27 Planes Over Mirage

BK1306042396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Assembly was told last night that the government is trying to acquire state of the art aircraft for Pakistan Air Force to meet future requirements. The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, responding to a point of order by Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan said that the Mirage deal has not yet been finalized. He said Pakistan would prefer to acquire SU-27 from Russia if a political decision is taken by Moscow. The speaker reserved his ruling on the admissibility of an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Mr. Halim Siddiqui and others about grant of a contract for a container terminal to a foreign firm which they believed was a security risk. The parliamentary secretary for communications said the company in question had presence in Karachi for a long time and grant of contract does not involve any security risk.

Replying to a call-attention notice by Dr. Hamed Khan Achakzai, Mr. Abdul Matin Khan, and Rao Qaisar Ali, the parliamentary secretary said that a project for construction of a block top [phrase as heard] road between Dera Ismail Khan and Mughal Kot was included in the next year's EDP [economic development program].

Pakistan: Report Shows PAF Rejected Cheaper Mirage Deal

BK1306024496 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Jun 96 p 1, 11

[Report by Aroosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, June 11: Several interviews with well informed sources and a thorough investigation carried out by THE MUSLIM into the shady Mirage-III's deal have now confirmed that the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] deliberately dumped cheap and technically excellent offers from other countries and opted to go for a dubiously expensive deal with SAGEM [Company for General Application of Electricity and Mechanics] of France.

The inquiries reveal that the PAF kept its intention of buying the old Mirages a secret and the interested sellers came to know about PAF's requirement through informal sources.

THE MUSLIM is now in possession of documents and records which prove that Hercules Aeronautic of Madrid, Spain had offered to supply 20 ex-Spanish Air force Mirage-III aircraft with complete retrofit at a cost of 37 million US dollars for the whole package.

The PAF entered into correspondence with Spain on Sept. 22, 1993 and a letter was received by the then Chief of Air Staff Farooq Feroze from the company with its formal intent to supply 20 aircraft. Several letters were exchanged and many representatives from the firm visited the Air Headquarters. On Oct 19, 1994 Group Captain Arshad H Siraj, Director R & D [Research and Development] Air Headquarters, wrote a letter to the Spanish company asking for a technical offer by the company for the supply of old Mirage-IIIs. He had asked for the flying hours of airframe, overhaul inspection record, flying hours of each engine an d overhaul record, the complete inventory of spares and ground support, hours and overhaul record of spare engines.

The PAF had also asked for the prices of entire package including aircraft upgradation to original Spanish Air force plans such as single-point refueling, air-to-air refueling and wing refurbishment. The letter was delivered to the company through Pakistan's Defense and Air Attache in Paris.

The technical offer send by the Company to the PAF on Nov. 14, 1994 included details of 14 Mirage F-IIIE fighter version (single seat) 5 Mirage P-IIID light strike sorties (tandem seating), one Mirage F-IIIE fighter (needing a single main plane wing replacement) and one Mirage F-IIIE fighter (needing the nose section replacement). All aircraft offered by Spain had a total number of flight hours between 2,500 and 3,400 hours since delivered new from the manufacturer, which gave an average of approximately 2,900 flight hours per aircraft.

All the aircraft were free of corrosion partly due to the dry and salt free atmosphere in Spain and the aircraft were maintained to the highest standards of AMD/BA Marcel Dassault. The general update of the Avionics system installed in all these Mirages was authorized by the Spanish air force in early 1992. The work was done at CASA [Construcciones Aeronauticas Ltd.] Madrid with the participation of Marcel Dassault, the manufacturer of these Mirages.

In mid-1992, 8 of these Mirages were delivered to CASA for the update and extension of nose section to accommodate additional electronics including radar, in October 1992 the Spanish Air Force decided to take the entire Mirage-F-III E and D out of operational service and placed them for sale. The aircraft offered to Pakistan were operational. The planes have had engine started up and systems put in operation on a weekly basis and were in excellent "fly away" condition.

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The Spanish Mirages were inducted in 1970 into service as brand new and of the same configuration as of all other Mirage-IIIs delivered by Marcel to its clients in that year. In fact the aircraft offered by Spain were identical to the Mirage IIIs of PAF.

The most important and attractive feature of the Spanish offer was the fact that the inventory of the Mirage-FIII-E and D model had an extremely large and far excess of normal usage, as it was originally based on a war-time consumption inventory level. The entire inventory offered to PAF by Spain was maintained on full alert levels. The deliveries of material ordered from Marcel Dassault took place during 1993 and some material was still due to arrive after the offer was made to Pakistan. The material in the pipeline was also part of the package offered to PAF. The technical package offered by Spain also indicate that the available inventories of spare parts would have been in new condition as they were in October 1992, whether that be overhauled zero time, with hours remaining or subject to next overhaul. The offer also applied to the available ATAR 09C7 engines of which some were offered with zero time since last major overhaul. The company offered to supply detail listing of all materials quantities and conditions to the buyer.

The present and past record covering aircraft and their [word indistinct] equipment was also offered under the same price. The package also included standard hardware, hydraulic pump assemblies and spare parts, auxiliary power units, shop test equipment and ground handling equipment specifically used for Mirage F-IIIE and D models.

The package included supersonic fuel tanks, non-jettisonable capacity 500 litres each, operational jettisonable fuel tanks: capacity 600 litres, ventral fuel tanks under fuselage: capacity 1300 litres, augmentation fuel tank: capacity 1700 litres, RPK fuel tank 500 litres, support of 2 each 125 kg bomb EA tank, jettisonable, fixed guns: DEFA 553 30mm, attachments for Sidewinder or similar missiles, bomb supports CLB3 and 4, support MATRA 530 for air-to-air missile (infra-red/Electro Magnetic), support for rockets. The Cirano II/Thomson CSF Air 5 Ground and Air/Air Radar was installed only in the Mirage-IIIE models and was not available in the F-IIID models.

The company offered to PAF that though the Spanish Air force does not perform 3rd party work, but certain areas of activity could be left open to evaluate against more unusual requirements. It also offered that the facilities at CASA could be put at the disposal of the PAF, if areas of common interest could be found. The company also informed the PAF that it was conducting negotiations with Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela for the sale of these aircraft. Though the negotiations were almost final the interested buyers were facing lack of funds. The company expected an early response from the PAF but due to the change of guards in the PAF, the process got slowed down.

After almost one year of silence, the company was informed in November 1995 by the French manufacturer of Mirage aircraft that the authorization to carry out the upgradation and retrofit by the CASA has been canceled on the plea that all the work on old Mirages will be done by Marcel Dassault itself. But months later PAF awarded contract of 120 million US dollars to SAGEM by dumping the Spanish offer which was 1.2 million US dollars per copy fully retrofit.

Competent sources claim that the SAGEM in connivance with PAF officials cleverly manipulated to withdraw permission from the competing countries to undertake any retrofitting assignments in Mirage IIIs before selling it to Pakistan. The PAF told the company late November 1995 that it was no longer interested in old Mirages and is seriously looking into Mirage 2000-5 procurement. But the fact was that money was changing hands and finally the three-time expensive deal was concluded in January 1996. The deal was kept a secret till the time a substantial payment had been made. This was done to preempt any unwanted reaction by other eligible bidders.

According to experts the Spanish offer was a viable one. The package was not only cheap but the machines were in excellent operational condition.

Sources indicated that the Spanish aircraft may not be available now for sale to Pakistan due to dilatory tactics adopted, by vested quarters in PAF. These sources alleged that fake negotiations were carried with various companies by PAF to gain time for the conclusion of a dubious deal with SAGEM. They indicated the involvement of a Belgian wheeler dealer and a relative of a top official of PAF in 120 million deal.

The Belgian wheeler dealer associated with Pakistani Mirages deal also brokered a dubious deal between Belgian Air force and SAGEM. The infamous Mirage deal later resulted in resignation of many senior air force officials of Royal Belgian Air force. The chief of Air Staff of Belgian Air force had to commit suicide and the Secretary General NATO also resigned for his involvement in receiving kickbacks from SAGEM.

The most glaring aspect of the deal is that Kamara has been denied an opportunity to do work on these aircraft which could have saved the public exchequer precious foreign exchange. Informally, the Air headquarters has

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been taking refuge behind the argument that the delivery time of SAGEM is very short. But if one looks at the delivery schedule SAGEM will take two years to complete the package.

According to experts it would have taken Kamara the same time to roll out these machines. It is pertinent to mention that SAGEM undertook the integration of Griffo Flar Radar and Chinese Radar Warning System on Australian Mirages at Kamara in one and half year time. Much of the time was consumed on Research and the development of these systems. Pakistan paid 7 million francs for the R&D of FIAR [expansion unknown] integration and about 4 to 5 million francs for the RWR [expansion unknown] integration to SAGEM. Rest of the overhauling and upgradation of old Mirages was done in Kamara much cheaper than what PAF has agreed to pay to SAGEM to do the job in France. Since R&D on the integration of the avionics systems has already been done, the PAF had no justification of awarding contract to SAGEM to integrate FIAR radar in France while they had developed the facility in Kamara.

CLARIFICATION: Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Ministry of Defense clarified today that the Federal Minister for Defense Aftab Shahban Mirani, stated on the floor of the National Assembly on Monday [10 Jun] that the initial action on the old Mirages issue was initiated by him on his own, on May, 24 and it was not taken as a subsequent action to a news appearing in a section of the press. It was categorically stated that the action was first taken and then the newspapers picked it up, the spokesman concluded.

Pakistan: Sindh's Ethnic Alienation Seen Deep

96AS0026D Lahore ZINDGI in Urdu 12-18 Apr 96 pp 35-36

[Article by Abdullah J. Maimon: "How Will the Sindh Crisis Be Resolved?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are many causes for the present crisis in Sindh. However, one important cause is the lack of communication between Sindhis and Mohajirs. I am a Sindhi and this has given me the opportunity to come in contact with different Sindhi groups. Most Sindhis believe that the Mohajirs have no problems and they are raising hue and cry just because of prejudice. However, the fact is that they have many problems because they left a different region and culture, and settling here has created innumerable problems for their group identity. They came here thinking that Pakistan was [destined to be the] home of all Muslims of this subcontinent. Time proved this assumption to be wrong. Also, they want to be identified as mere Pakistanis. The loss of East Pakistan reduced this hope also. Until East Pakistan separated, talk about ethnicity was considered a sin here. However, the situation changed after that. Talk about regions and ethnicities became common. In this atmosphere and because they lived in Sindh, Mohajirs began to call themselves "new Sindhis." However, this did not work out either. Thus, the question of identity became more and more serious with the passage of time.

Additionally, a new and unfriendly change began to occur after July 1970. This change hurt Mohajirs' economic interests. There was a time when you arrived in Karachi from Kanpur [in India's Uttar Pradesh], you could have gotten a job in a day. Now the situation is so bad that if a young man gets a medical or engineering degree with a high grade, he will not get a job even after running from pillar to post for four or five years.

Retaliatory activities that are taking place now have also created a feeling of alienation among the Mohajirs. You did not break any law and are sleeping with your 80-year old mother and two-year old daughter in your home. Suddenly, two dozen soldiers break your door at 2:00 in the morning and enter your house just because you are living in a Mohajir settlement. How would you feel in such a situation? Almost all my personal employees — private assistant, driver, messenger, cooks, and butler — were Mohajirs. They still visit me with their families and ask me in tears if being a Mohajir is a crime?

At the same time, if you look at Sindhis with a clear mind and conscience, you will see that this community has been a victim of unsurpassed atrocities and inequalities during the first 25 years of Pakistan's existence.

Soon after the establishment of Pakistan, Karachi was separated from Sindh undemocratically, in an embarrassing manner. This poor state had succeeded after years of effort and hard work to build its own first engineering college, first medical college, first law college, its own assembly building, high court and all government offices in this city. When Pakistan was established, all of these were snatched away. A respected and honorable Mohajir described this extreme action as "incurable wound on Sindh's soul."

In Punjab, the land that was mortgaged to Hindu bankers was returned to Muslims. However, in Sindh that land was declared abandoned. Then the unethical game of "one-unit" was played and Sindh's name was all but obliterated. Efforts were made to create an unhistorical absurdity called South Zone. Later, it was decided that Sindhi language could be used in education without any advance communication to the people. I remember very well when I was in intermediate level in 1957 and the order was given that Sindhi language could not

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be used for writing answers in examination booklets. All answers had to be written either in English or Urdu. The problem was that at that time we had had only two basic classes in Urdu. Neither could we use English because of the fact that we were attending a vernacular Sindhi school. During the one-unit era, one of the extreme actions taken against Sindhis was unfair and atrocious distribution of Barrage lands. This unfair decision was made to allot land pieces in Kotari Barrage and Gaddu Barrage using auction method. Those who made this decision knew well that the local people did not have enough money to bid for land in the auction. That is exactly what happened when his policy was implemented. The outsiders bought all plots of land in the auction. Later, President Ayub Khan awarded huge plots of land to military and civilian officer. None of these officials were locals. The most painful or beastly part of this whole action was that the revenue maps used for allotting land plots did not show already existing villages and cemeteries. Because of these incorrect maps, the outsider and influential owners of the land demanded later that these villages and cemeteries be removed.

There were Shi'a-Sunni riots in Khairpur district in 1958 and some people were killed in those riots. At that time, the deputy commissioner of Khairpur district was a Sindhi. Just because of it, a decision was made not to appoint Sindhis to high offices like superintendent of police, deputy commissioner, or commissioner. Now the situation is that in villages neither the applicant can understand the officer, or the officer the applicant. In summary, the Sindhis lost their self-respect, their cities, their land, their language, and their right to govern. All this gave Sindhi intellectuals as well as the youth a feeling of being deceived. When people read fiery interviews with Sindhi nationalists in newspapers and magazines, they become upset. This is because these people are not aware of the wounds the Sindhis have suffered. You think we are the ones committing atrocities and we think of you as the ones. The truth is that both groups are the victims. What we need to do is to feel each other's pain and try to remove the hurdles that hinder communication. Against this background, there are two options for resolving Sindh's problems: being separate and being together. One slogan would be, "We cannot live in Sindh alone; this is half-yours and half ours." The second slogan would be, "Sindhis and Mohajirs are brothers. Where did the question of dividing us came up?"

The concrete proposal under the first option asks for dividing Sindh and making a Muhajir state or a forming a separate coastal state. I cannot see the idea of a Muhajir state fly. As soon as such a state is formed, the conflict between Gujarati and Urdu speakers will start. The Punjabis and Pathans living here will compete for jobs in business and industries. Mohajirs living in inner Sindh will either be uprooted again or become rootless people. Thus, while no solution would come out for Mohajirs' identity or their economic plight, the Sindhi would suffer a terminal wound of losing their old home. Anyhow, these are just my opinions. What is needed is to study the positive and negative aspects of these options fully.

As for the separate coastal state, the present situation is not conducive to this proposal. The first criterion for any movement of separation usually is ethnic or cultural homogeneity. This criterion is not met here. Also, Karachi is very important for the rest of Pakistan and any proposal to separate Karachi will meet opposition from everywhere. This separate state could happen only if India attacks us.

The walls of discrimination and discord that are present in Sindh now need to be torn down. We have to openly admit that Sindh is a state with two ethnic groups living within it. Sindhis who speak Sindhi language and Sindhis who speak Urdu live here. There will be no room for complaints after that. At the same time, autonomous governments in cities like Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Peshawar, Karachi, and Hyderabad will be established. This will remove that feeling of deprivation among the people living in cities and they will have the right to resolve their own problems.

As for sharing power at state and federal level, it is necessary to form relations with political parties based on ideology and not ethnicity. History proves that sharing and unity go together. Until you join the national mainstream, the corridors of power will stay away from you.

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